

Australian

Wild

bushwalking, ski touring
canoeing and climbing magazine

SURVEY
WinterTents

Photographing
Halley's Comet

Survey: where
to ski tour

Doug Scott
interview

Kayak meets
whales

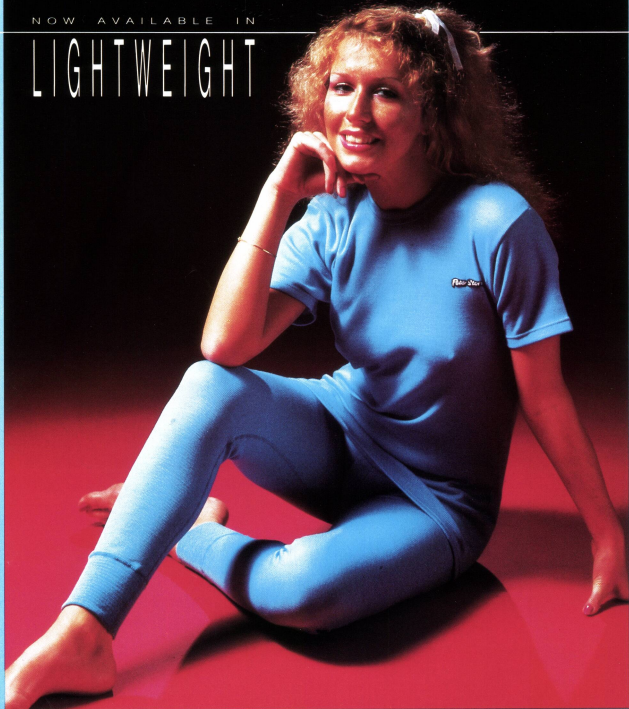
Bushwalking:
Mt Feathertop,
Royal National Park,
epic historic walk

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- 28 **Halley's Here** A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in wilderness photography, by David Gorrie
- 32 **Mt Feathertop** An audience with the Queen of the Victorian Alps, by Klaus Hueneker
- 38 **Doug Scott** Quentin Chester interviews one of the world's most successful Himalayan mountaineers
- 42 **Whale Tragedy** Tony Dicker recalls his bitter-sweet encounter with whales trapped on Tasmania's south-west coast
- 44 **A Bush Christmas, 1904** Klaus Hueneker reconstructs an epic walk from Bright to Mallacoota by way of Mt Bogong and Mt Kosciusko
-
- 3 **Editorial** Timberrr
-
- 13 **Wild Information**
-
- 25 **Getting Started** Adventure Travel Medicine
-
- 50 **Folio** The Victorian Alps, by David Tatnall
-
- 54 **Track Notes** Royal National Park
-
- 59 **Wild Activities Survey** Skiing the Australian Alps
-
- 65 **Wild Gear Survey** Winter Tents
-
- 69 **Reviews**
-
- 77 **Equipment**
-
- 81 **Contributors**
-
- 83 **Wildfire** Letters to the Editor
-
- 96 **Wild Shot**

Cover Breakfast on Pindars Peak, South-west Tasmania. Photo Grant Dixon. **Contents** Damp conditions under foot in the Guy Fawkes River National Park, New South Wales. Photo John Turbill.
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● THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, announced in December (see detailed report on page 13), to renew Tasmanian woodchip export licences for a further 15 years underlines the sad plight of Australia's remaining native forests. Conservationists see it as a grotesque precedent that will seriously jeopardize the survival of our forests, not only in Tasmania but throughout Australia.

As long ago as the Second World War, bushwalkers were expressing concern in journal articles over the effects of logging on Australia's native forests.

From one end of the country to the other, forests are being raped and cleared—the logging of Western Australia's karri forest; Queensland, northern New South Wales, and western Tasmanian rainforest; and Victoria's north-eastern, Otways and Gippsland regions, are among the most glaring examples of this short-sighted and selfish exploitation. Woodchipping has recently been in the news, and well it might, because of its wastefulness and wholesale destruction—largely for exports to Japan, a country unlikely to tear out its own limited and valuable forests while there are suckers ready and willing to destroy their own wild heritage! Destructive as it is, woodchipping only accounts for part of the ruin of our forests.

Since the earliest white settlement in Australia, the bush has apparently been regarded as an adversary. The earliest settlers feared the bush and its 'blacks', wild animals and rugged, brooding loneliness. From this desire, born of fear, to 'drive back' the bush, emerged a 'wild west' mentality to profit from and exploit the bush. The latter attitude, in particular, persists to this day. In the early days, with few white settlers, primitive tools and extensive forests, it may have appeared a one-sided confrontation. Today it looks more uneven, only the balance has swung against the forests. The advent of aerial surveys, bulldozers, semi-trailers, and chain-saws, not to mention a vastly greater population, have seen to that. For decades a powerful, self-interested and short-sighted timber industry, aided and abetted by a conniving bureaucracy, has ruined and reduced the extent of the heritage of untold future generations. (The various State government 'Forests Departments' might more accurately have been named 'Logging Departments'. It is the old story of short-term economic gain for the few, at the expense of the many.)

The legacy is a serious unbalancing of the ecosystem and the atmosphere in ways which we are only just beginning to realize, let alone understand. Species of animals and birds are disappearing for ever as their mature-forest habitat is carved up. The forests are crisscrossed with networks of roads—scars on hillsides flanked by silent tangles of uprooted trees—that carry vehicles, and 'civilized' pollution and disease, to the very heart of wilderness. As well as the ravaged hillsides themselves, logging leaves its universal rubbish: tangles of fallen and discarded timber, tree stumps, log-loading ramps, cables, fuel drums, dug-outs and loggers' derelict huts.

Directly or indirectly, this madness affects us all. And, as our cities grow and become uglier, it will affect our children, and their children,



In New Zealand's Nelson Lakes National Park last summer.

more. For too long we have complacently accepted the arguments that our forests are 'needed' if we want houses or paper. And for too long we have chosen to remain uninformed of the extent of the destruction. (It is no exaggeration that our virgin forests now face virtual extinction.) The time is well overdue for a universal and heavy commitment to honest self-education, and the search for and application of alternatives and solutions. The latter might start with halting the export of woodchips, and cleaning up the detritus of logging and effectively replanting logged areas, including logging roads. We must also make a commitment to more sensitive and forward-looking management, and the development of viable alternative materials and employment, to large-scale commercial timber planting and to recycling.

No reader of Wild should need to be reminded of the immeasurable intrinsic value of wilderness. Our native forests are the most important part of Australia's wilderness and are facing extinction. There will not be another chance. Either we do all we can now or we accept responsibility for the passing of something we value very highly. A good way to start would be by writing either to the Australian Conservation Foundation (672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122) or the Wilderness Society (130 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000) with a donation and a request for specific information on what you can do to help win this crucial battle. ●

Chris Baxter
Chris Baxter
Editor & Publisher

● With this issue, the cover price of Wild has been increased. This is due to substantial increases in printing and paper costs. ●

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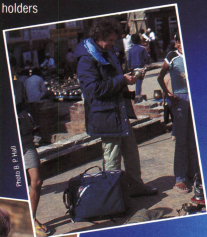
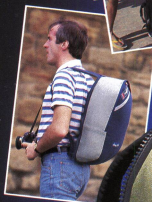


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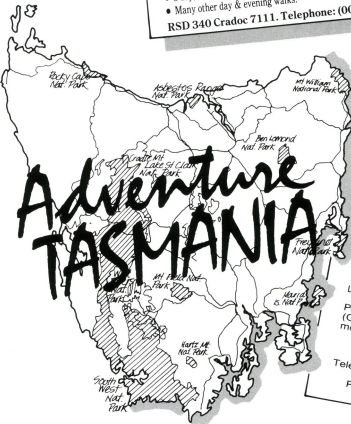
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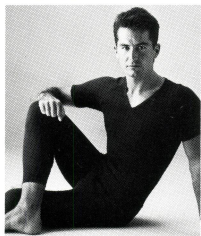
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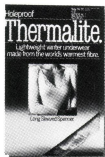
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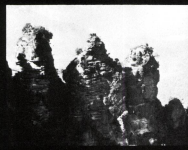
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Woodchipping Tragedy

Conservationists declare war

Wild Information

● **Woodchip Rage.** The Federal Government's announcement in December of its decision to renew Tasmanian woodchip export licences for a further 15 years has brought a reaction of outrage and dismay from conservationists. The decision, reportedly described by the Wilderness Society's Bob Brown as 'one of the worst decisions in environmental history', will result in an increase in the export of woodchips from Tasmanian forests. The licences will allow the export of woodchips to increase from 2.825 million tonnes a year to 2.889 million tonnes a year.

At the same time, tighter controls have been imposed by the government on the licences. These include requirements for annual reports from the logging companies, and reviews by the



Left, logging near the Yalmi Road which borders Victoria's Rodger River Wilderness. Right, Rodger River Wilderness near Monkey Top. David Tatnall

government every five years. Logging is excluded from eight National Estate areas and four areas of Crown rainforest. The Wilderness Society claims that these areas comprise less than 1% of Tasmania's forests. Logging will be allowed in eight other National Estate areas and, possibly, up to 17 more National Estate areas including the Apsley-Douglas region, the Mole Creek area and the Great Western Tiers.

Conservationists fear that this decision will lead to the destruction of forests in other States, and have commenced a major campaign to save Australia's forests. (See Editorial.)

Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray has been quoted as claiming that areas on the Register of the National Estate which are excluded from export woodchip licences will be logged for domestic purposes.

An opinion poll, conducted for the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Wilderness Society in October, found that 82% of those surveyed are opposed to export woodchipping.

The battle to stop the logging of Queensland's Daintree rainforest continues unabated. The conservation movement has conducted a



boycott against the products of Email Ltd because of the involvement of a subsidiary company in logging in the region. A private survey, conducted in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in November on behalf of the ACF and other conservation groups, found that 82% of the respondents were in favour of the Federal Government taking urgent action to protect Queensland rainforest. The following month, the Wilderness Society, frustrated by Federal Government inaction, sought to embarrass it by bringing international attention to the matter of World Heritage listing for Queensland tropical rainforest. Two Society members attended a meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Paris and lodged the Society's own application 'on behalf of the Australian people'. However, as we went to press, a crucial official application to save the area had not been made by the Federal Government, despite protracted negotiations with the Queensland Government, loggers and unions in an attempt to thrash out a deal which might save the remaining rainforest. However, the conservation movement is extremely disturbed by what it sees as the Federal Government's lack of decisive action in the issue.

In New South Wales the Minister for Planning and Environment, Bob Carr, has criticized the Federal Government for using rare rainforest timbers in the new Federal Parliament House. Carr has banned the logging of a private northern NSW rainforest providing timber panelling for the project. This follows the nomination by the NSW Government of the

'cream' of NSW rainforest for World Heritage listing.

As concern mounts for the dwindling forests of south-east NSW and eastern Victoria, Sydney's Total Environmental Centre has proposed that large areas of State Forest be included in a new 47,000 hectare National Park in the Eden region to save them from export woodchipping. A coalition of NSW and Victorian conservation groups, the South-east Forest Alliance, GPO Box 1875, Canberra City, ACT 2601, is also actively campaigning for the restriction of woodchipping in this region.

The Native Forests Action Council is co-ordinating a project, 'Forestwatch', to document breaches of logging regulations in Victoria. The NFAC claims that these rules, meant to minimize the massive environmental damage caused by logging, are commonly broken and evaded. The Forestwatch guide and forms are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to NFAC Forestwatch, 285 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000. For further information, or for speakers to talk to groups about the project, telephone (03) 663 1561.

● **Taking a Leak?** The Northern Territory's Ranger uranium mine has come under fire from local conservationists for alleged spillages of contaminated water and tailings. Conservationists claim that the company concerned has breached the Uranium Mining (Environmental Control) Act and that the NT Government is refusing to prosecute.

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GUINDE SVAN

2 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
1984 Olympics

2 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
1985 World Championships



● **Rock Stars.** On 26 October 1985 the title for Uluru National Park (which includes Ayers Rock and the Olgas) was handed over to the traditional Aboriginal owners.

● **Frogs.** In *Wild* nos 3 and 8 we reported on the remarkable gastric-brooding platypus frog, discovered in 1972 in the Canondale Range, 140 kilometres north of Brisbane. After the area was logged the frog vanished.

Remarkably, a new species of gastric-brooding frog has been found in tiny isolated pockets, in the Clark Range, 800 kilometres north of the Canondale Range. However, the Queensland Water Resources Commission has begun dam construction in this area. Scientists claim that migratory eels trapped by such a dam will threaten the existence of the frog.

● **Perverts and Crocs.** Taking time off from his well-publicized programme to rid his State of pervers, Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen has come up with a plan to capture all Queensland's man-eating crocodiles living near civilization and to release them in remote areas! The extraordinary scheme was devised after a woman disappeared whilst swimming alone and at night in a crocodile-infested river.

● **Mine Host.** Shelburne Bay, on the north-eastern tip of Cape York Peninsula in far north Queensland, is that State's latest conservation battleground. Australian and Japanese companies want to mine the region's massive dunes of pure white silica for glass-making in Japan. The Wilderness Society describes the area as being of botanical and Aboriginal significance. Shelburne Bay is on the Register of the National Estate, has been recommended for a National Park by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, and abuts the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

● **Mapped.** Natmap reports that it has now published 1:100,000 scale maps of all but the central portion of Australia, 1,644 maps in all. Natmap has promised to speed up its programme to reprint the many 1:100,000 maps which are out of print.

● **Electro-reception.** A recent discovery by scientists, that the platypus uses a sixth sense, called electro-reception, to find its prey in the murky depths of its underwater habitat, has been hailed as one of the most significant natural history discoveries in recent years. Apart from fish and tadpoles, the platypus is the first creature known to use the method.

● **Getting Physical in New South Wales.** In November, 20 soldiers of the Army's Engineers and Signal Corps pedalled, paddled and plodded their way from Sydney to Melbourne, via the Snowy Mountains and Murray River, in an 1,100 kilometre, nine-day triathlon.

Katoomba Technical College is running a full-time course throughout 1986 for those who would 'like to earn a living guiding tourists on bushwalking trips'. No fees are charged for the course.

The NSW Rogaining Championships were held on 22-23 March in sandstone country south of Sydney. These championships are normally staged over a 24-hour period; this year the organizers also staged additional 3-hour and 8-hour events in an effort to attract newcomers

to the sport. We expect to publish results in our next issue.

A group of NSW wild-water rafters is compiling a register of raft owners and enthusiasts. There are, the organizer claims, many rafters who are unable to take advantage of high water because of insufficient numbers for a car shuffle or to meet safety considerations. Contact (02) 337 6821 for details.

been poisoned by grain soaked with insecticide. Over 1,000 birds, and possibly many more, are known to have died in the incident, which claimed mainly sulphur-crested cockatoos and galahs.

● **Grrr!** In September 1985 Peter Treseder completed what has been described as 'the hardest tiger walk ever attempted in Australia'.



The only way to travel! (Perhaps the organizer of the New South Wales rafters' register is on to a good thing.) Graham Mitchell

● **Driven Out.** There has been concern expressed among walkers at the number of vehicles illegally penetrating Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales, from the Barry Way and via Cowombat Flat. A locked gate prevents access from Dead Horse Gap, although there is evidence of amateur earth-movers attempting to bypass this obstacle. (See *Wildfire in Wild* no 17.)

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service now appears to be well aware of this. During the last Christmas holiday period a two-vehicle team of park rangers patrolled the region. They had the added authority of the NSW police patrolling in a clearly identified four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The absence of uncontrolled traffic on the popular Cascade Track may now ensure that walkers have a leaf-strewn grassy track, rather than mud or dust, to walk on.

Peter Dunbar

● **Killing 'em Off.** The 1985 New South Wales quota of kangaroos killed by professional shooters was filled before the end of the year. It is reported that the quota of 301,000 animals was 'the smallest for many years', and the first time the quota had been filled since 1970.

Autopsies of birds killed in July 1985 near Queanbeyan, NSW, show that the birds had

The route traversed the Wollemi, Blue Mountains and Kanangra Boyd National Parks, New South Wales, a distance of over 330 kilometres involving some 9,150 metres of ascent and 7,000 metres of descent, covered in 86 hours (including 10 hours' rest).

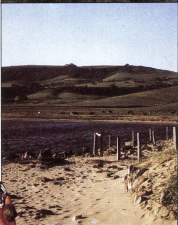
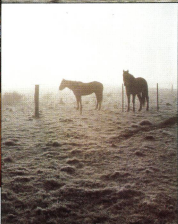
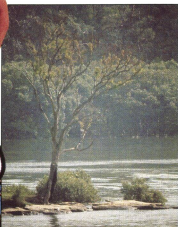
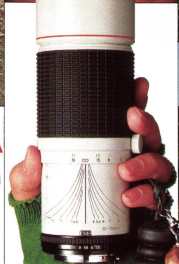
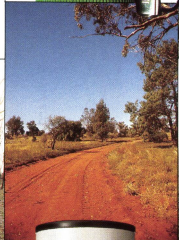
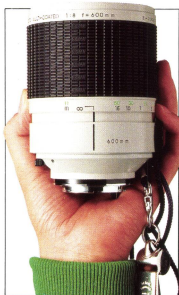
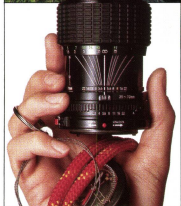
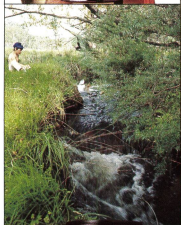
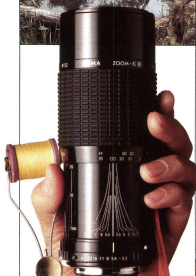
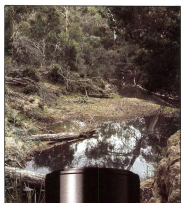
In 1964 Robbie Kilpinen established a ski record from Perisher to Kiandra (NSW) of 8 hours 11 minutes. This stood for 21 years until the 1985 ski season when Olympic skier, David Hislop, reduced the time to 6 hours 18 minutes. In November 1985 Treseder cut his existing running record time for the same trip (7 hours 52 minutes, set in February 1984) to 6 hours 10 minutes.

The Kanangra Canyons are amongst the most spectacular to be found in the Blue Mountains, NSW. To complete one in a week-end is fun and rewarding, to complete two in a week-end is a challenge, and to complete three is hard work. When Treseder set off in January 1986 to complete six canyons (Davies, Carrabeanga, Thurat Rift, Danae Brook, Kanangra Direct and Kalang Falls) in a week-end, it seemed like madness. When he staggered back into Kapangra Walls car-park, 37 hours 30 minutes later, another barrier had been broken.

Beth Ferguson

● **Park.** Lake Innes Nature Reserve, near Port Macquarie, New South Wales, has been expanded by the addition of Christmas Bell Plain and the adjoining Kooloonbung Creek wetlands.

When you've skied
the slope climbed
the cliff forded
the stream walked
the wilderness
crossed the desert
beheld jungles
beaches plains and
forests felt the roar
and silence
reached the
horizon of this
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Passport to Immortality

Nyrie Dodd free-climbs massive ceiling

● **Rock Jockettes.** Victorian rockclimbing has been in the limelight again. The most notable feat was the much-tried first free ascent of Passport to Insanity on the Fortress in the Grampians National Park, in January. Adelaide medical student, Nyrie Dodd, 22, confounded the pundits by leading the crucial roof pitch free. This seven metre wide obstacle is in a dramatic position some 70 metres above the ground (see photo in *Rock* 1984) and is split by a very thin hand-crack. Dodd's tiny hands are perfectly suited for jamming into this crack (she climbed it barefoot!) and it may be a long time before a male ascent is made. (The grade of the pitch is 24-28, depending on the climber's hand size, and may well be the hardest lead made by an Australian woman.) Dodd's partner on this ascent, which freed all the other previously aided sections of the climb, was Steve Monks, whose remarkable solo ascent of the North Face of the Eiger (apparently the first on-sight solo) was reported in *Wild* no 19. The team that originally climbed 'Passport', using artificial aid (Joe Friend and Keith Lockwood, in October 1974), left a note, found by Monks in a bottle on a ledge above the roof, which rashly offers '\$500 for the first person to have freed the roof'. It remains to be seen whether Dodd is successful in recovering her prize, with appropriate adjustment for inflation!

Two significant new routes were added to the 'Passport' wall: Raving Loonies, 24, by Louise Shepherd, Monks and Dodd, and Ticket to Retirement, 26, by Monks and Kim Carrigan.

It now appears that the little-known 1981 climb Clouded Queen (M8/M9), done on the North Wall of the Mt Buffalo Gorge by Geoff Little and Tony Dignan, is the hardest aid climb in the area (with the possible exception of a hammerless ascent of Lord Gumtree). Big-walling Lydia Bradey (see interview in *Rock* 1986), keen to make the second ascent, was stopped by hard hook moves on the second pitch during an attempt with Robin Miller. She then recruited Little for another attempt and he led this crux section. They completed the second ascent of the route over three days with Bradey being quoted as saying it involved the hardest aid climbing of her experience. The pair also made a 12-hour ascent of adjacent Ozymandias Direct (M5), the first one-day ascent of this classic aid climb since that by the ubiquitous John Fantini and Pete Giles several years before.

The action continues at Mt Arapiles with many overseas visitors and hard new routes. However, serious accidents now occur with monotonous regularity. In November 1985 a Norwegian climber fell from the last moves of Yesterday (27), tearing out a runner and dislodging a large block which fell on his belayer. The leader's fall was stopped just above the ground by the rope miraculously tangling in the unconscious belayer's Sticht plate!

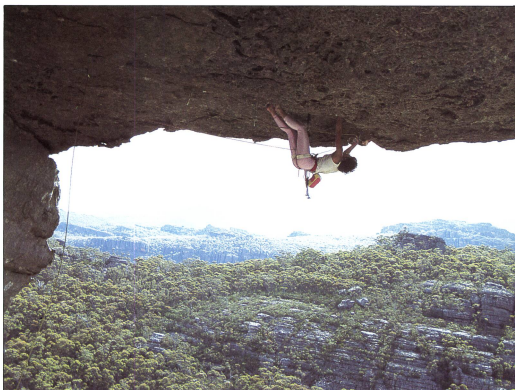
A similar accident occurred during a top-rope attempt on Horrorscope (24) in which a fall brought down the top-rope belay block on to the belayer on the ground. Amazingly the only damage was a (serious) foot injury.

A novice broke his leg after a big fall from the notoriously undergraded Mantis. As a result of this state of accidents, a telephone has been

installed in the camping ground to summon rescues!

(As we went to press, news came of a rather more serious accident, in New South Wales. Popular and well-known Wollongong climber,

Robin Rishworth, a bushwalker and former football boundary umpire, was next in 7 hours 46 minutes 8 seconds. Others to finish included hardened all-weather bushwalkers Julian van Leeson (8.08.02) and Alan Davis (8.24.38),



Nyrie Dodd leading the ceiling on Passport to Insanity, the Fortress, the Grampians, Victoria, during the first free ascent. Steve Monks

Russell 'Chunder' Chudleigh, has been badly injured following a fall whilst soloing on Mt Kiera.)

The Victorian Climbing Club is organizing an 'international climbing meet' from 26 October to 4 November at Mt Arapiles. Climbing during the day will be followed by evening slide-shows, films and lectures.

The Land Conservation Council has recommended that Mitre Rock be added to the proposed Mt Arapiles Toon State Park. (Apparently the Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands is preparing a 'management plan' for Mt Arapiles which, it considers, has become degraded, in parts, by overuse.) The LCC has also recommended that the nearby Little Desert National Park be extended from 35,300 to 124,000 hectares.

● **Bogong to Hotham Run.** There was early activity at the Mountain Creek car-park, near Mt Bogong, Victoria, on 28 December 1985. At 6.30 am six runners started the 1985 Bogong to Hotham event, and, with a fine cool day forecast, conditions were ideal.

First to reach the summit of Mt Hotham, 60 kilometres away, was Neil Hooper. He broke his own record by 16 minutes, taking 6 hours 58 minutes 52 seconds for the run. This was only two days after completing a four-day bushwalk.

British fell-runner Jim Ingham (8.37.11), and bushwalker/athlete Steve Miller (8.12.40).

Russell Bulman

● **More on Bogong.** On New Year's Eve there was a party on Mt Bogong celebrating the year, 1986, corresponding with the height of the peak, 1,986 metres.

Bogong Jack Adventures (see Directories) is organizing a special 'comet watching' trip to the Bogong High Plains in mid-April. (See the article on Halley's Comet in this issue.)

The Ski Touring Association of Victoria reports that rather less savoury activities are afoot in the area. It is reported that a group, calling itself the 'Ski-mobile Association of Victoria', has been formed at Falls Creek ski resort. It is also reported that the group intends to vigorously lobby the Victorian Government to have the current restrictions on snow-mobiles relaxed. Apparently the club also intends to establish itself at other ski resorts. STAV is calling on ski tourists to write, expressing concern, to the Chairman, Alpine Resorts Commission, 280 William Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

● **The Great Thomson Clean-up.** On 30 November and 1 December 1985 the biggest-ever assembly of four-wheel-drive touring club members equipped for community work met at Muttonont, Victoria, near the old township of Matlock, for 'the Great Thomson Clean-up'. Over 100 vehicles and almost 300 club

The Original Australian-made Wilderness Equipment

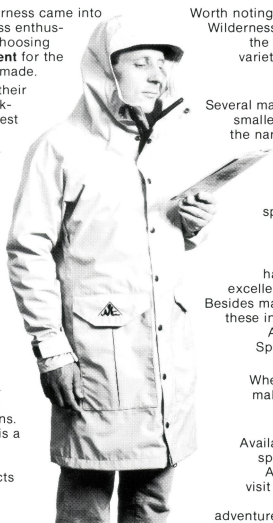
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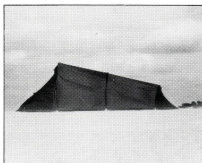
The 1983 Heard Island Expedition and Project Blizzard both received sponsorship with Gore-Tex gear and Tents.

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members have now cleared a significant part of the Thomson Reservoir catchment area and, it is claimed, made the fire-access tracks safe for emergencies. In addition, three cemeteries have been beautified: Jericho, Red Jacket and Aberfeldy. The New Chum Mine site was another important feature worked on.

The week-end was not without its disappointments. Despite the announcement and invitation in a four-wheel-drive magazine, not one four-wheel-driver from outside the club movement was present. Also noticeable by their absence were members of the conservation movement. Despite invitations, sent personally, or given at conservation meetings, not one representative attended.

John Cribbes

● **Rogaining.** The 1985 Victorian Rogaining Championships were held on 26-27 October. Winners of the 24-hour event were Michael Walters and Alan Davis, who covered approximately 97 kilometres in 23 hours 55 minutes and scored 1,980 out of a possible 2,010 points.

The 1986 Australian Championships are to be held on 20-21 September, 150 kilometres south of Perth: details from the Western Australian Rogaining Association, PO Box 228, Cottesloe, Western Australia 6011.

● **A Whale of a Time.** In December 1985 the Victorian Government announced that it will prohibit the capture and keeping of whales and dolphins in Victoria. This decision is significant and one actively sought by Project Jonah in its two-year campaign against the proposal to include these creatures in a proposed marine park at Keyesborough.

● **Trapped.** On 25 August 1985 Ken Hosking was faced with an unfortunate dilemma; his route out of Tasmania's National Gallery Cave was obstructed. Above him was a most peculiar blockage, a trapped caver. The dilemma was even more unfortunate for Petrina Quinn of Hobart. She was pinned by a 300-400 kilogram boulder which was crushing her arm. Quinn was suspended above a ladder pitch, effectively dangling from the injured arm. Richard Cronnelly comforted her for several hours, whilst the fourth member of the party went for assistance.

The rescue involved setting up stirrups to take her weight, then shifting the boulder. Initial efforts to lift the rock failed because of the constricted nature of the passage. It was then necessary for a rescuer to return to the surface to obtain a hydraulic jack. Quinn was treated with Etranox, a 'giggle gas', which in the small space available had more euphoric effects on rescuers than rescued! Using the jack to full capacity, the rock was finally shifted, allowing the two trapped cavers to leave the cave at midnight after a ten-hour ordeal.

This extremely difficult rescue was accomplished effectively thanks to the combined efforts of the Tasmanian Police Search and Rescue Squad, the Ambulance Rescue Squad and St John Ambulance Service. Special praise is due to local policeman Jim Davidson, and Steve Williams, who were in charge of the rescue operation. Correct procedure from the outset, by both the cavers and rescuers, probably saved two lives.

Stephen Burton

● **Tasmanian Caving.** As a result of intensive recent development, there are now 20 explored caves in Tasmania that are deeper than Eagles Nest system (-174 metres), Yarragombilly, which is the deepest cave on the Australian mainland.

The surveyed length of Growling Swallet continues to grow: 360 metres of passage, called Colecanth, was discovered by diving the downstream sump in the Black River series. Off the Entrance series is a passage called New Feeling, which added a further kilometre of passage, taking the total surveyed length of the system to over 11 kilometres.

Nearby discovery, Flick Mints Hole (-204 metres), is further testament to the potential for cave discoveries in Tasmania. Another exciting new discovery, near Tassy Pot, is Porcupine Pot, the current explored depth of which is over 194 metres. In the Weld River valley Phil Jackson has discovered Arrakis (-236 metres). At Ida Bay a lower entrance to Mini Martin has been found. In northern Tasmania, at Mole Creek, local cavers added over a kilometre of passage in Rat Hole after passing a sump.

SB

● **Cave Heritage.** Senior members of the Australian Speleological Federation are currently working towards the inclusion of Australia's premier caving areas and karst features on the World Heritage List. Nick White (123 Mannington Street, West Parkville, Victoria 3052) is currently reviewing those caving areas on the National Estate, with a view to nomination as World Heritage Areas. John Dunkley (3 Stops Place, Chiffley, ACT 2606) is preparing a submission on Jenolan Caves, and Adrian Davey, PO Box 290, Canberra, ACT 2601) is preparing details on the Nullarbor Plain karst area.

SB

● **A Burning Habit.** According to a report in the Age newspaper, officers of Tasmania's National Parks and Wildlife Service were recently responsible for causing the State's biggest recorded bushfire. The fire, in Southwest Tasmania, was allegedly lit by the NPWS as part of the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Plan for the endangered orange-bellied parrot, of which there are only about 20 breeding pairs left. According to the NPWS, the parrot prefers to nest and feed in areas with new growth brought on after a fire. The fire, which was originally intended to burn only 100 hectares, escaped and burnt almost 60,000 hectares (almost 1% of Tasmania). However, NPWS officers did manage to save an uninhabited mining camp in the area—so mineral exploration in South-west Tasmania should not be affected!

Bob Burton

● **Academic Killings.** According to another report in the Age, campaigning by animal liberationists against the use of Tasmanian devils and other protected fauna at the University of Tasmania has led to the discovery that some devils were taken illegally and killed by university staff. As a result, stricter regulations governing the use of protected wildlife for scientific study are to be introduced.

● **Farmhouse Creek Logged.** Last summer road-building for logging was begun in

Tasmania's Picton valley, south of Farmhouse Creek. The Tasmanian Government imposed a ban on public access to the area by a proclamation on 19 January. Bulldozers then moved into the Farmhouse Creek area, which is just east of Federation Peak and listed on the Register of the National Estate.

It appears that the intention of Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray was to ensure that the road becomes an issue that will provoke confrontation with his opponents in the lead-up to the State election.

Using amended forestry legislation to declare that anyone entering the area without a permit is trespassing, and therefore liable to prosecution and a \$500 fine, seems calculated to provoke an angry reaction from environmentalists.

Bob Burton and Iona Johnson

● **A Gray Day.** Following the Federal Government decision on woodchipping, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources backed the Wilderness Society proposal for the establishment of a Western Tasmania National Park. Premier Gray has categorically rejected any 'parliamentary debate or public consultation on the matter'. In a letter to the Director of the IUCN, Gray wrote that 'the Tasmanian Government does not recognize any concept of an enlarged South West National Park. It is a policy of my Government that no further land area of this State be allocated to National Parks'.

BB and IJ

● **Jubilee.** The South Australian Division of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia has an extraordinary range of outdoor activities planned for its jubilee year programme this year. These include a 24-hour canoe marathon (1-2 March), and women's walks and canoeing activities.

● **Taking Advantage.** The fifth National Outdoor Education Conference is to be held in Perth on 12-16 January 1987, with the theme 'Using the Outdoors to Advantage'. Papers are now being sought (deadline for submissions is 30 June)—phone (09) 420 4828 for details.

● **Yet Again.** Hamersley Range National Park, one of Western Australia's premier tourist attractions, is under threat from a proposal to mine for gold in the park.

● **Caving.** The caves of the Nullarbor Plain, Western Australia, have long been a Mecca for cavers (see article in *Wild* no 13). The largest cave in Australia, Mulumulung Cave, is found in this region. In what is believed to be an Australian 'first', Osprey Wildlife Expeditions (see Directories) is leading commercial caving expeditions in the area.

● **Fall.** Young Melbourne climber, Kenneth Payne, 18, was killed in a fall from Porters Col after an ascent of the East Ridge of New Zealand's Mt Cook on 5 January. Payne was belaying his second, Christian Doblin, 23, also of Melbourne, when Doblin slipped, the belay failed, and the pair fell more than 300 metres on to a snowfield. Payne died instantly but Doblin, suffering from hand and ankle injuries, was rescued by helicopter.

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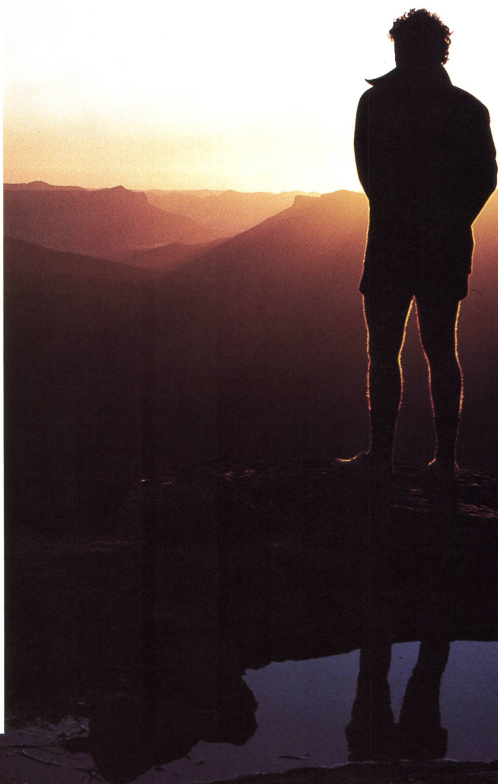
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● 1985 Victorian Slalom Championships.

Unbelievable as it may seem, the 1985 Victorian Slalom Championships (on 7-8 December) were almost cancelled due to *too much* water. The course was set for the Goulburn River below Eildon Dam, but the water was 'turned off', due to flooding in Seymour! Faced with a river depth of about ten centimetres, the organizers changed the venue to Slalom Rapid on the Big River.

In the Open Men's K1 (kayak) Paul Beattie beat John Males and Rob McConnell by more than seven seconds. All three had clean (no gates touched) runs.

Andy Spargo won the 18 Years Men's K1. Second place-getter, Bruce Pole, was just a quarter of a second behind.

Vivienne Golding of New South Wales beat Mandy Linden and Robyn Galloway of the Victorian Canoe Club by 18 and 19 seconds respectively. In winning the Open Ladies' K1, Viv 'went clean', while Mandy gathered five and Robyn ten penalties.

Kathy Payne of the Southern Cross Canoe Club was a convincing winner of the 16 Years Ladies' K1.

This year Peter Eckhardt won the Men's Open C1 (decked Canadian canoe paddled by one person using a single blade) from Kevin Songberg. Craig Bartlett was third, due to a five-second penalty. Eckhardt and Bartlett combined to take out the Men's Open C2 title.

The 18 Years Men's C1 title was won by Trevor Reid. How somebody that skinny can paddle so quickly defies logic. He will be even quicker when he discovers muscles!

Mandy Linden and Paul Beattie were 20 seconds ahead of their nearest rivals in the Open Mixed C2.

Teams events (a team consists of three boats from the same class which run the course together and which must cross the finishing line within 15 seconds of each other) were dominated by top paddlers from individual events who regularly paddle together.

Slalom paddling is gradually developing in Australia and our paddlers are improving their results at each successive World Championships. Our best result at the last 'Worlds' came when Craig Bartlett was placed fifteenth in the Open Men's C1.

Andrew Barnes



Peter Martini, foreground, competing in the Men's Open C1 Teams event, 1985 Victorian Slalom Championships, Big River. Andrew Barnes

● **Mountains 85.** Christchurch-based Canterbury Mountaineering Club held New Zealand's first national mountaineering seminar in the Christchurch Arts Centre during the last week-end of September 1985. (See announcement in *Wild* no 18.)

British climber Alan Rouse was flown out specially to open the seminar, delivering a punchy lecture on his climbs in the UK, the European Alps, and the Andes, as well as his well-known Himalayan ascents of Janu, Nuptse, Broad Peak, Kongur and the winter attempt on Mt Everest's West Ridge.

Although New Zealand is starved of international speakers like Rouse, the highlight of the seminar was the social contact between 200 climbers from all over the country during informal luncheons and dinners. A trade exhibition featured the latest imported hardware, and locally-made clothing, tents and packs.

Eight prominent New Zealand mountaineers addressed the seminar. Hugh Logan summar-

ized the milestones in New Zealand mountaineering over the last 100 years, and John Nankervis demonstrated the scope for pioneering new climbs in some of the more remote West Coast valleys.

With a 'ghetto blaster' for aid, Roland Foster (see photo in *Wild* no 16) set the hot rock scene in France, Australia and New Zealand.

Professional guide Nick Banks delivered a blistering speech on the 'Re-emergence of Professionalism' in the Southern Alps guiding scene. He claimed that cloudy government thinking and monopolistic control by the Tourist Hotel Corporation are a severe hindrance to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. Banks pointed out that in the immediate past some of New Zealand's internationally qualified guides could practise their profession anywhere in the world except on their own highest peak.

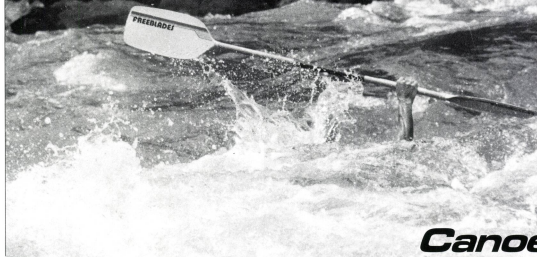
Don Bogie, mountaineer in charge of Mt Cook's rescue team, left the seminar in no doubt about the spectacular increase in efficiency and technical capability of the Mt Cook team, in part due to the breath-taking helicopter methods currently employed.

Carol Nash provided a moving and in-depth account of the part women now play in New Zealand mountaineering. This was a fitting venue for such an address, as the CMC specifically excluded women from its ranks until relatively recently. Dave Bamford and Steve Rawnsley gave accounts of recent New Zealand expeditions to Nepal and Peru (see *Wild* no 18). The seminar concluded with a day's bouldering at Castle Hill in the Craigieburn Range.

Rouse lectured in Dunedin and Wellington before making a ski ascent of Mt Sibbald from the Godley valley. His attempt on Mt Cook's Zurbriegen Ridge turned back at the Linda Shelf.

Colin Monteath

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Wild Information

● **Going Down.** The Greenpeace mission to the Antarctic was abandoned shortly after a British ship was crushed by ice and sank in the Ross Sea. The *Greenpeace* turned back less than 20 kilometres north of Ross Island.

The *Greenpeace* left Melbourne in December to establish the first non-government research base in an attempt to have the Antarctic declared a world park.

The successful In the Footsteps of Scott Antarctic Expedition 1984-86 returned to New Zealand in January, having walked to the South Pole.

● **Himalayan News.** Colin Monteath reports that New Zealand mountaineers Merv English, Geoff Gabites, Malcolm Fry and Nigel Perry, with Queenslander Robert Staszewski, failed in an attempt on a winter ascent of the South Ridge of Mt Ama Dablam (6,858 metres). This was the first attempt by a New Zealand team on a winter ascent of a major Himalayan peak. Gabites and English were members of Peter Hillary's four-man attempt on the West Face of the mountain in 1979 which was abandoned when Ken Hyslop was killed by falling ice blocks.

Another New Zealand Himalayan expedition had earlier also met with defeat. The attempt on Mt Everest from Tibet planned to climb the West Ridge but, because of dangerous conditions on that route, turned to a line on the North Face, between the Australian route (see *Wild* no 15) and the North Ridge. There were near escapes from avalanches and these, combined with unseasonably severe weather, forced the team to quit the mountain altogether.

Australian Everest summiter (see *Wild* no 15), Greg Mortimer, is establishing a guiding business for those wishing to climb one of the many attractive 6,000-7,000 metre peaks in the Himalayas. Mortimer sees the service as meeting a need for those seeking further challenge after they have been on existing 'high altitude treks'. In May Mortimer is taking part in an Australian-American expedition, including Tim Macartney-Shape and Greg Child, to attempt the North-west Ridge of Karakorum giant, Gasherbrum IV. Amazingly, this spectacular peak has not been climbed since the first ascent, by Carlo Mauri and the legendary Walter Bonatti, in the 1950s.

Gary McCue writes that, following one death and one near-death of Australian trekkers from meningitis, a number of trekking companies are encouraging their clients to be vaccinated against it upon arrival in Kathmandu, even though complete immunization can take up to two weeks. It appears that there has been an epidemic of meningococcal meningitis in the Kathmandu valley and that, whilst the Nepalese Government began a mass immunization in the valley, little attempt has been made to warn Westerners. McCue suggests that those planning to visit Nepal contact their trekking company or local public health department about the vaccine. In Kathmandu, the Infectious Disease Centre in Teku and the International Clinic in Maharajganj both have the vaccine available, according to McCue.

Having abandoned ice axe and crampons in favour of hot air, Chris Dewhurst, climber-turned-director of Sydney trekking company, Adventure Travel, made headlines last November with his team's balloon flight over Machapuchare and the Lamjung Himal. It is claimed that, at 7,000

metres, these are the highest peaks a hot-air balloon has flown over. Also on the successful flight were well-known British film-maker, Leo Dickinson, and Melbourne balloonist, Brian Smith.

Warwick Deacock reports that, during October last year, 12 New Zealand trekkers, 2 Sherpas and 20 porters were evacuated by helicopter from Tilicho Lakes, Nepal, where they had been trapped by a blizzard for over a week. Five Sherpas had set out for Meso Kanto Pass but were caught in an avalanche. The one surviving Sherpa, after returning to Tilicho Lakes, set off again with one of the trekkers and a Spanish mountaineer, using mess-stool tops as snow shoes, and after two days eventually reached Manang to raise the alarm.

The same storm killed five trekkers on the Thorong Pass (on the Annapurna Circuit) and extended into Tibet. Another five trekkers died in an avalanche in the Annapurna Sanctuary.

The Australian ski-mountaineering expedition to China's Mustagh Ata, led by Stephen McDowell, and which included Rick White (see interview in *Wild* no 18), was thwarted at its top camp by a premature winter in the region. Whilst the mountain is a big one, the expedition reports minimal technical difficulties. Some members have booked Mustagh Ata, and nearby Mt Kongur, for another expedition, in 1988.

● **Ellesmere Island Expedition 1988.** Following a successful five-month expedition to Greenland in 1984, John Dunn is planning an expedition to Canada's most northerly Arctic island. Situated between latitudes 76° and 83° north, Ellesmere Island has only one permanent Inuit (Eskimo) settlement and its landscape of rock and ice remains very much the domain of the musk ox, caribou, wolf and polar bear.

The expedition will be flown in and spend the spring and summer exploring the island. The feasibility of an air-drop-supported 1,000 kilometre north-south traverse of the island is also being considered.

● **Corrections.** 'Stable loft' given in the 'Down Sleeping Bags' survey table on pages 78 and 79 of *Wild* no 19 was measured in millimetres, not centimetres as stated. The relative value of the figures, of course, remains the same. 'Stable loft' was measured after two weeks of loose storage. A beam was lowered until it was in contact with a quarter of each sleeping bag's circumference (roughly half the width). The measurement represents mean, rather than peak, loft of the cross section of each bag, 23 centimetres from the neck line.

Glenn Tempest's name was misspelt in the photo caption on page 71 of *Wild* no 19.

The review of *Discoveries of the Snowy Mountains*, in *Wild* no 19, includes reference to a photo of the Grey Mare Hut. The photo referred to is of the old hut. The new one (on the tree line) was built in 1949.

The phone number in the Suppliers Directory for Eastern Mountain Centre (Camberwell Junction) should have been (03) 82 7229.

The photo of Federation Peak on page 90 of *Wild* no 18 is reproduced back-to-front.

The editorial of *Rock 1986* refers to the climb Yesterday; it should read Yesterday Direct.

Readers' contributions to this department, including colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send contributions to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

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Adventure Travel Medicine

A doctor tells how to improve your chances of staying healthy

● IN THE 1980s MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE turning to the remote regions of the world for 'adventure holiday' destinations, and for more serious undertakings, such as deep cavern exploration, alpine assaults on major Himalayan peaks, and white-water canoeing. Such destinations include New Guinea, Nepal, South America, India and Africa. Most trips to these corners of the world are fascinating and exhilarating journeys, but adequate preparation is necessary.

One of the most vital areas of preparation should involve preparation for medical problems which may arise. This article is not meant to cover major trauma, or specialty fields such as altitude sickness or barotrauma. Rather, it is intended to provide some guidelines to make your trip a good one. What is more, it could save you a lot of energy, money and toilet paper.

The first major consideration is vaccination. A vaccination is the introduction of biological material into a person with the aim of creating an immunological response in that person to confer a degree of immunity to specific illnesses. There are many vaccines available, but only a few are relevant here, and not all are required for all countries. The only vaccinations required to enter some countries are cholera, yellow fever and, rarely, smallpox (which is rather a strange requirement as the World Health Organization declared smallpox completely eradicated some five years ago). Other vaccinations are occasionally required during epidemics and so forth.

It is the traveller's responsibility to obtain a vaccination certificate book, usually available from your travel agent or airline. Each vaccination and the date should be recorded in this book by your doctor or the Commonwealth Department of Health office in your State.

The most frequently forgotten, and yet one of the most important vaccines, is tetanus. If you have not had a booster within the previous five years, get one. The tetanus germ is everywhere and, despite modern medicine, fatalities still occur among the unprotected.

Cholera vaccine is probably the most frequently required vaccine for the traveller. It requires two shots initially, at a minimum interval of one week, and confers adequate immunity, in about 60% of cases, for a period of about three months. A single booster is required for each subsequent period of exposure. Mild reactions such as local pain, headache and fever are common.

Typhoid vaccine is often recommended for travellers, but it is not usually mandatory. It confers good immunity against typhoid, but none to the familiar illness known as para-



Bush surgery, Tasmanian-style! Bonny Green

typhoid. Its immunization schedule is similar to cholera.

Yellow fever vaccination is mandatory if you are travelling to an endemic area such as parts of Africa and South America.

As well as the active immunizations referred to above, it is now also common for people travelling in high risk areas to have a dose of pooled immunoglobulin—this gives the body's immune system a non-specific boost, and can help prevent infection from a variety of illnesses including infectious hepatitis.

Having considered vaccinations, we should look at the question of prophylaxis. Prophylaxis means to take precautions (in this case that usually means medication) against a disease that you might come into contact with. The best known prophylactic measure is the taking of quinine, or its derivatives, as protection against malaria. Unfortunately, in recent years this old standby has become useless against new resistant strains of malarial parasites. These

resistant strains are particularly common in South-east Asia, India and parts of Africa. Fortunately other drugs are still effective in these cases. It is vital to have up-to-date information on which drug prophylaxis is appropriate for the areas you intend to visit. The Commonwealth Department of Health is very helpful in these matters. You should also remember that malaria prophylaxis must be commenced before leaving, and continued for one month after returning home.

Most of us are distressingly familiar with that old bugbear, traveller's diarrhoea. Although it is usually only due to change of normal stomach flora from the home species to the local variety, the effects can be disastrous and, in some cases, very dangerous. Recent literature suggests that besides the old standbys, such as boiling or otherwise sterilizing drinking water, avoiding suspect foods and cooking for yourself, there may be a place for prophylactic antibiotics. It appears that a broad-spectrum antibiotic, taken daily in a much reduced dose compared with normal treatment regimes,

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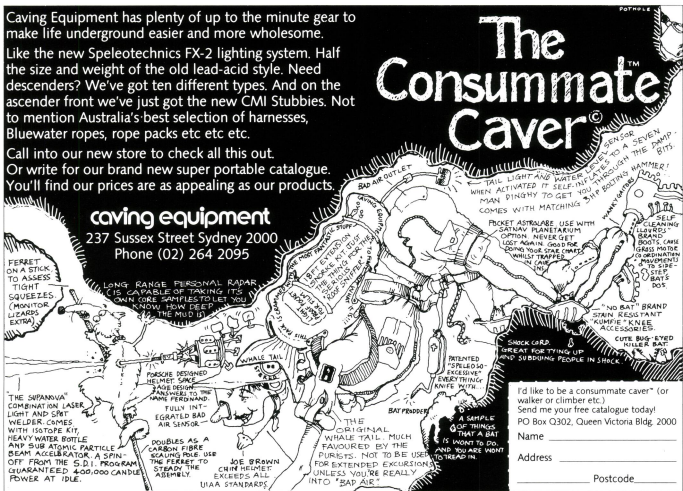
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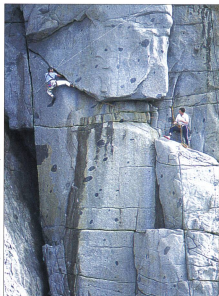
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Getting Started

offers significant protection against traveller's diarrhoea, and possibly against other infections as well. The type and dosage of antibiotic depends on the individual, his allergies and so forth. This is obviously not a *carte blanche* to neglect traditional care, but it does appear to offer some protection for the isolated traveller.

The affliction many adventure travellers dread most is a bout of gastroenteritis, a common problem. The most important treatment principle is to maintain good hydration. A period of starvation is often useful, but adequate fluid intake must be ensured. The best type of replacement fluids are clear liquids, preferably with some glucose content, as the glucose not only provides calories but also increases the body's capacity to absorb fluids. Fluids are best given in frequent small quantities. Should fluid loss persist, some attempt should also be made to replace salt losses. Packet soups, stock cubes and proprietary mixtures can all be used. Antidiarrhoeal and antinauseant tablets are also of value, but make sure you are aware of doses and side-effects before you leave.

Another troublesome matter, particularly in the tropics, is that of fungal infections. To minimize these, ensure you have adequate means for keeping susceptible areas dry (baby powder is very useful). When possible, wear loose, natural-fibre clothing, treat footwear with an antifungal agent before leaving, and, if you are a recurrent sufferer, take a suitable antifungal cream with you. A troublesome itch can ruin a trip, so beware of these infections and be adequately prepared.

Travelling in rough regions often results in cuts and grazes. To assist with healing you must ensure that the injury is carefully cleaned. If it is a laceration the edges of the wound must be brought together (butterfly closures or sterile plastic tapes are useful here—a little friar's balsam along the edges of, but not in, the wound will help these stick better). The laceration should then be adequately dressed to ensure it will remain clean and dry. Non-stick, waterproof, adhesive and various other types of dressing are all available at your local chemist. Do not skimp on what you take; dressings have a habit of being needed. It is also important to remember that many of the environmental circumstances encountered, such as cold, damp and altitude, will slow the normal healing process.

Most trekking organizations take comprehensive medical kits with them, but I have made a short list of useful medications which I feel each person should pack. This list is not meant to be definitive and will not cover every circumstance, but it is a reasonable guide. Remember, even if you can obtain medications overseas, and often you cannot, they are very expensive. I know of people paying \$10 a tablet for antibiotics—expensive when you consider the average course comprises 20 tablets.

Include the following: pain-killers (include some mild ones such as paracetamol or aspirin, and some stronger ones in case of more serious problems), antibiotics, antinauseants, antidiarrhoeals, antihistamines (useful for allergies, rashes, itches and cold symptoms), antiseptic ointment, and an adequate supply of any regular medication you may be receiving at the time.

There are, of course, many other subjects and problems which may need to be dealt with: see your local doctor, or the Health Commission Office in your State. ●

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Halley's Here

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This naturally-occurring cosmic spectacle will blossom to its visual best in early April. A good-quality wide-field telescope or pair of binoculars might not seem too much of a burden compared with the visual delight that can be gained. Binoculars with a medium magnification (7x) and a large-diameter objective lens (35 or 50 millimetre) are ideal. Telescopes are generally less suitable because of their narrow cone of vision and the comet's relatively large size.

Another handy addition to your rucksack would be a planisphere, which comprises two plastic or cardboard discs. One disc has all the stars visible in a whole

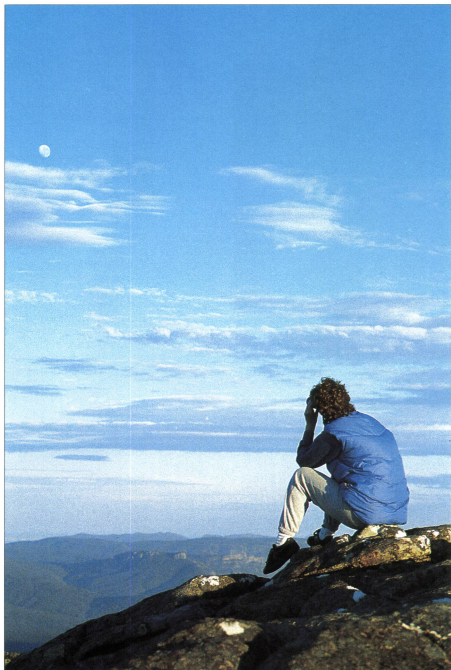
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year marked on it, along with months, days, 24-hour times and degrees. The top revolving disc has a section cut out to show all the stars visible on any particular night and time. Simply place the correct time on the appropriate date, orientate the disc north-south, and that twinkling mass you once stood in awe of will become understandable. One word of advice: make sure you obtain a planisphere that is suitable for the latitude you intend to use it in.

Halley's Comet first became visible in the constellation of stars known as Taurus, close to a recognizable star cluster named the Pleiades. At this early stage of its orbital passage by Earth it was seen as a diffuse blob. With the onset of the New Year the first tantalizing and captivating signs of the gaseous tail began emerging, for those walkers with binoculars, and could be found just above the horizon in the south-west region of the sky, preceding sunset, and not far from a star called Gamma Aquarius.

By late February Halley's Comet was displaying a gaseous tail stretching 8° - 10° across southern skies, with a magnitude of 2.5. (Magnitude is the brightness of an astronomical object. The lower the number, the brighter the object. The visibility limit for the naked eye is about sixth magnitude.)

The clearly recognizable comet will seem to be passing through the constellation Sagittarius in the first month of autumn. Ideal weather conditions should prevail over most of Australia as summer moderates to autumn, so cloudless skies are practically assured,



The most recognizable astronomical object, the moon, viewed from the northern Grampians, Victoria. Left, star trails and eucalypts. All photos Gorrie

especially if you have done your homework and set up camp at a reasonable elevation, to avoid morning and evening fogs and mists.

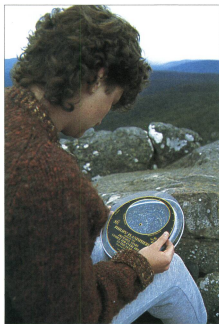
If you have been saving your holidays in anticipation of a comet expedition, April 1986 is the month to put on your rucksack (not forgetting your camera!) and to head for your own personal observatory in the bush. If you are intrigued by astronomy, and take the time to go into the bush to observe the spectacle, you will be awed by this grand sight, stretching some 20° across the sky with all its intricate magnificence. When compared with the trivial half of one solitary degree that a full moon measures in the sky, the enormity of Halley's Comet becomes obvious.

Halley's Comet will appear at its best between 9 and 16 April. Its close proximity

to the rising and setting sun could prove disheartening, but astronomers say that the comet will be brilliant and luminous just before sunrise and after sunset, in what is termed 'astronomical twilight', which is roughly 60 minutes after sunset and 60 minutes before sunrise. This alters, of course, with latitude.

Photographing Halley's Comet should present you with a pleasant challenge. The austerity and contrasting beauty of the Australian bush will come to the fore with aesthetically pleasing foregrounds for framing the comet. Instead of the countless photos that will inevitably appear with the comet as an insignificant light against a starry sky, you will have photographic treasures of it streaking across that distant peak or rising from behind a twisted and gnarled snow gum.

Most foot-bound adventurers will have found that in photography the 35 millimetre format lends itself admirably to



Using a planisphere. Right, an eerie double-exposure of Mt Abrupt in the Grampians.

bushwalking, so stick with it. Film is cheaper and more readily obtainable, and accessories are not as expensive as those for larger formats. Tripods, of course, should be the sturdy aluminium type. The quality of your tripod could influence the clarity of your photos, particularly if you are camped atop a gusty peak or on a windswept ridge. Lens quality is perhaps the biggest factor in your quest for clarity,

no matter what the focal length: cheapest is not necessarily best. Make sure though, whatever lens you are using, that you use the largest aperture, and have the focusing ring set on infinity. Spherical aberration, which is image curvature at the film's edge, occurring when a lens is wide open, may cause minor problems but can be remedied by closing down the aperture half or one stop.

Far from observatories, and in the bush, you will find yourself without a tracking system to mount your camera on. High-speed films are the answer if you want a static image of Halley's Comet, or you may settle for a star-trail effect, in which case a slower film will suffice: 25 ISO (ASA) Kodachrome and other brands of similar speed give excellent results for star-trail photography, recording the infinite and varied hues of our southern skies with commendable accuracy.

Exposures are determined by you and can be as long as you want them to be. The longer the exposure, the longer will be the star trails. Lockable cable releases are another essential item when making long exposures. Conversely, capturing a blur-free comet will require a fast film, of at least 400 ISO. Excellent performers include Kodak VR 100 (print), Ektachrome 400 (slide), and Fujichrome RH 400, which responds well to 'pushing'. ('Pushing' is when a film of, say, 400 ISO is exposed while your camera's film speed dial is set to a higher speed to compensate for dim lighting or to obtain faster shutter speeds,

to suspend movement.) The entire film—not just individual exposures, must be 'pushed'. When you arrange processing of your exposed film make sure a note is enclosed with it stating that the film has been used for recording astronomical events, and requesting that the whole film be processed. This may sound like an inane piece of advice, but some processing laboratories disregard exposures that have spots or streaks of light exposed on them, wrongly mistaking these for faults. Secondly, if you have 'pushed' your film, also include this in your note, stating to what speed the film was pushed, so that the laboratory can vary processing accordingly.

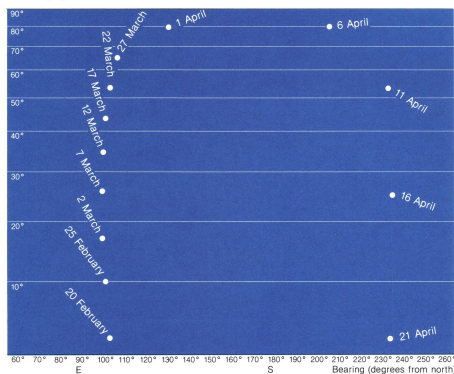
Astronomy in general will hold a lot more fascination for you once you have been lured by Halley's Comet into training your eyes skyward. Fireside conversation will take on new dimensions as you come to know the labyrinth of another world and its vastness.

Not marked on your planisphere are the many man-made satellites, some 2,300 in all, orbiting Earth. Some of these will be visible as points of light moving steadily across the sky. They are clearly distinguishable by their apparent speed, and appear fast compared to star movement. Meteors can always be seen in the sky on

Where to Look

The Location of Halley's Comet During Morning Twilight at Latitude 30° South

Elevation (degrees from horizon)



THE

comet will be brilliant and luminous just before sunrise and after sunset.

a dark, cloudless night. They differ from comets in that they are only seen when entering Earth's atmosphere, where they are burnt up, causing the recognizable 'shooting stars' that streak across our skies. Meteors appear more often in May and October; the names of these two meteor showers are the Aquarids and Orionids, respectively.

Few people will be led to believe that the end of the world is nigh. But when a particular comet, composed of icy particles and shrouded in tenuous gas, circles close by Earth again, more people will look skyward than ever before. Bushwalkers, in particular, have the door open to them, just waiting for them to step into perfect viewing conditions in the magnificent Australian bush, far away from city lights. In April, as you sit beside your crackling campfire, a comet, which you will never see again, will light the darkness of night and then bid farewell as it heads for the edge of our solar system, giving you a unique opportunity of combining terrestrial with extra-terrestrial pleasures. ●



Wild Bushwalking





An audience
with the Queen
of the Victorian
Alps, by
Klaus Hueneke

Mt Feathertop

● AFTER SPENDING 25 YEARS EXPLORING the Warrumbungles, Blue Mountains, Barrington Tops and Kosciuszko plateau—all in New South Wales—it was high time, I decided, to redress the imbalance and start on the mountains of Victoria. I had to start with a real mountain, a real granddaddy with deep precipitous faces, razor-sharp ridges, and a view only surpassed by that from Mt Everest! A longing look at the photos in Holth's book *Cattlemen of the High Country* and Stephenson's book *Skiing the High Plains* suggested that Mt Feathertop was the only one.

The first opportunity was January 1985, and in anticipation of the usual unpredictable mountain weather—more cold than hot—we packed our heavy down sleeping bags, woollen mittens, Balacavas, short-sleeve duvet jackets and wind- and snow-proof tent. Thinking that we might get a touch of sun, I threw in a straw hat and a bottle of Blok-Out. These and the extra water bottle were the only concessions we made to hot weather.

We should have known better, for Canberra was already surrounded by fire-charred hills, and when we got to the Goodradigbee River on the first night out,

a dust- and sweat-begrimed local told us to put our fire out. 'No, never mind what the signs said in the ACT; here in NSW it's a total fire ban.'

On 12 January we parked at Diamantina Hut on the Hotham Alpine Road and made ready to jettison some of the trappings of civilization. Packing and lurching became a gritty epic, for every time we ventilated the car a huge truck would rumble down from Hotham surrounded by the most fearsome cloud of fine dust. But the occasional dust-free view of enticing green ridges spurred us on, and at 2.30 pm we set foot on the Razorback.

Ahhh, what a relief—put one foot in front of the other again... adjust the new-style rucksack and remember to have half the weight on the shoulders and half on the hips... stop to admire a totally new setting... count a succession of 12 ridges to the west... pull the Rolleicord round to the front and compose a dramatic view... feel the cooling updraft from Harrietville... greet a returning family of frazzled parents and belligerent children... tighten boot laces and march on. It was a clear day and we were on top of the world.

Janis, my companion on this trip, has very sensitive nasal passages prone to allergic reactions. This time, however, she gladly suffered the cause of her congested

Walkers returning along the Razorback from Mt Feathertop. Above, Janis among the snow daisies and Billy buttons. Hueneke

sinuses, for we were enveloped by irresistible air-borne aromas emanating from the richest mosaic of alpine flowers I have seen. Everything seemed to be in flower at once. There were bright yellow buttercups, gently swaying Billy buttons, vast fields of starry-eyed snow daisies, clumps of alpine celery, deep red patches of sorrel, and here and there the delicate mouth of an orchid. I wished that I could be a bee to imbibe and store away more than just a fleeting puff of pollen.

Feathertop seemed to beckon and overpower at the same time, and we were torn between making a dash for it that evening and keeping a respectful distance until morning. That is until we came to the Twin Knobs and their delicious, secluded dells and perfectly arranged rock gardens. Even a Japanese master could not have done better. We lingered a long time,

plodded on round the High Knob and camped where a foot pad heads off down the Diamantina Spur.

Water, and where it could be found, became the main topic of conversation with every person we met along the track. There were no late snow drifts, the ridge was dry, we could not hear water bubbling and falling in the valleys deep down below, and people told us that the tank at Federation Hut was unreliable. Responses varied from 'You can drink it but it's down to the bottom ring' to 'There's a dead possum in it so you'd better boil it'. I do not know how many times we heard the 'possum in the tank' story but it started to wear very thin. The best news was of an unpolluted spring bubbling out of the western flank of Feathertop.

By the time we got there late next morning we were ready for the drink of our

lives. We drank it straight, boiled it for tea, mixed it with milk and muesli, slapped it on sunburnt cheeks, necks and arms, and squished it between boot-compressed toes. But was it cold; it startled the nerves in my teeth, chilled the lining in my throat and hit my stomach like an icicle plunging into a steam bath. We gratefully bottled four litres and headed off up the South-western Spur.

Puff, puff . . . body aching . . . leg muscles sore . . . heels worn thin . . . sun beating on damp, hot back . . . temperature 36° (enough to close schools) . . . pearls of sweat under nostrils . . . wet matted hair . . . remember what Spencer Tracey said in one of his films ('take long

WE should have known better . . . Canberra was already surrounded by fire-charred hills.

slow strides') . . . puff, puff . . . no, can't stop for a photo . . . yes, yes the view is great . . . this slope is steep . . . puff, puff . . . ah, a deep breath into pleurisy-prone lungs at last . . . no, don't drink now—wait . . . phew, it's easing off . . . wow, we're on top . . . no, not quite, there's a higher bump . . . yes, over there . . . ah, at last!

All was clear, the serrated plateau of Mt Buffalo to the west, rugged Mt Bogong to the north, sedate Mt Loch to the east and great unknowns like the Crosscut Saw to the south. Oh yes, and beyond Bogong, a little lighter in hue and ever so faint, we could make out Mt Twynam, Mt Kosciuszko and, way to the east, the Pilot. A later check of the 1:250,000 *Tallangatta* sheet revealed that they were 120 kilometres away—probably the furthest sight line anywhere in Australia. We were very lucky, for within 24 hours the whole face of south-eastern Australia was smothered in a dense layer of smoke. The first tell-tale indicator of the conflagration to come was already rising as a single plume from the southern end of Mt Buffalo.

I was astounded by the number of people who whizzed out to Feathertop and back in a day or who climbed up from Harrierville by the Bungalow Spur on one day and down via the Bon Accord Spur the next. What they took in in seconds I needed hours for. Perhaps it is my penchant for composing photos with an old Rolleicord camera, or the need to write in a diary, or to just sit, imbibe, ponder and wonder at the order and majesty of it all. I could not take 'tiger walking' even when I was younger—the closest I ever came to it was a three-day walk from Kanangra



My Feathertop

Philippa Lohmeyer

● I FELL IN LOVE WITH FEATHERTOP AT FIRST SIGHT. It stood alone. Tall, very grand and definitely alpine. The Razorback access not unlike a strong Picasso line.

As Mike, Robin and I ski out along the Razorback I am filled with both apprehension and excitement. My first visit to this area, 13 years ago, had left memories of a unique, enigmatic wilderness. I remember my eye sockets being too small for my eyes to gaze open at the vast expanse of snow. The scene was quite different to the rows of snow-capped fir trees pictured on English Christmas cards. And Feathertop. Spectacular against the blue winter sky. So named because the last snow to remain looks like a feather. I remember telling my mother that when I was grown up I would return and ski the slopes. I also remember her shuddering at her daughter's resolve. This was not beginner's country.

On this morning the snow is at its best: a hard base created in the cold of winter, with a soft powdery covering. Two flame robins enjoying the spring sunshine watch us race down the first minor slope. The next rise in the ridge is still in shadow. This means it is icy. Heart thumping I

begin edging my skinny skis into the ice. I can see the beginnings of the Diamantina River far below. The prospects of slipping are not very appealing. Down the next slope it is time to put those well-practised Telemarks into use. As I go to step through the fall-line, fear grips me, my weight goes back, and down I fall. A sequence I repeat more than a few times.

All the while Feathertop appears aloof, awaiting our arrival as it probably has done over the years since the earliest ascents, by Baron von Mueller and James Campbell. A sense of danger overtakes me while I stand on Feathertop's summit. Maybe that same sense of danger discouraged the Harrierville and Bright Progress Association from continuing their snow carnivals there. The sides fall away to nothingness. To the south-east a cornice prevents me from peering over: this mountain has claimed a number of lives.

As I watch the sun set behind snow-capped Feathertop I cannot help feeling emotional, and I am touched by an incredible sense of awe at the beautiful and unique creation God has given us. I also feel thankful that good sense has prevailed and that Feathertop remains in its wild state. ●

Mt Feathertop from Mt Loch. David Tatnall. Above, Philippa Lohmeyer 'Feathertop dreaming', 1968. Lohmeyer collection



Walls to Katoomba. Yet Peter Treseder, the arch destroyer of long-distance records, has done it in six hours nine minutes. (See *Wild* no 15.) The walk in New Zealand's Rees and Dart valleys described by Chris Baxter in the same issue would probably see me out in ten days rather than the recommended four.

I also like to squat Buddha-like at least once a day, and one of the most 'powerful' places I have meditated in is the shiny geodesic dome labelled 'MUMC' on the map and pronounced 'mum see' by me. It is perched toad-like on the end of an

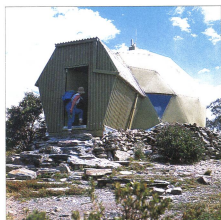
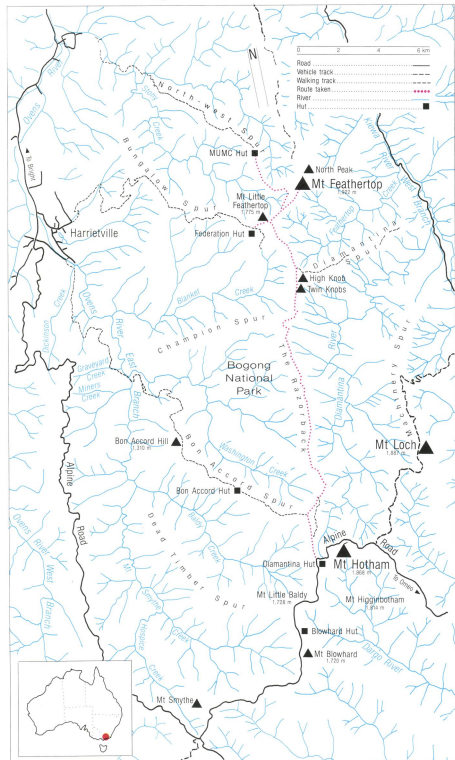
exposed ridge to the north-west of Mt Feathertop. The internal space felt warm, safe and secure as a womb, and although it took a while for my soul to settle in, the air definitely began to hum. In half an hour I got a tiny glimpse of the meditative stillness that must overcome some of the monks in much higher and more secluded places. The 'Mum-see Hut' must be a grand place in winter.

We departed with a last 'Om namah Shivaya', had a peek at the tetrahedroid lavatory, toiled upslope in stifling 38° heat, had a last drink at the highest spring in

Victoria and, after a short visit to Federation Hut, made ready to spend our last night on the Razorback. Our rations had been stretched from two to three days, and we were down to a slimmer's diet of soup, cheese and crackers. The night that followed was hot, hard and sleepless, and brought home to me the urgent need for a Therm-a-Rest mattress. I am too old, too wise and no longer poor enough for hard ground.

Next morning (Monday, 14 January) the air was stifling by 8 am, and Victoria was on the brink of another Ash Wednesday. The plume on Buffalo had grown, and a mild haze was slowly creeping over the high country. It was a matter of pack up, get out and hibernate near a cool green water hole—but apparently not everyone

Mt Feathertop



The Melbourne University Mountaineering Club Hut. Right, the Owens River valley from Mt Feathertop, with the MUMC Hut visible on the timbered ridge. Hueneker

had the same idea, for half-way out to the road we were met by a straggling line of 40 semi-naked teenagers trying to walk the 20 kilometres from Mt Hotham to Harrietville on the hottest afternoon in a decade. They had poor footwear, wore clothes suitable for the beach, carried only a few litres of water and had little idea of what lay before them. I was too tired to tell them, and stood with bent shoulders and bowed head as their eager bodies filed past.

The mountains that had treated us kindly were about to roar and spit fire, and, as a farewell gesture, captivated us with a grand spectacle of eye-piercing lightning, quarrelsome thunder, car-shaking winds and huge moving curtains of water back-lit by a bright, enflamed sun. Over the next three days we were nearly evacuated from Harrietville (at 4 am), trapped by smoke and fire in Corryong, and in danger of losing our belongings at home in a suburb of Canberra. But the fire on Canberra's Black Mountain was a mere pin prick on a vast map littered with millions of charred eucalypts, thousands of dead possums, wallabies and sheep, and many lost homesteads. Feathertop was quite a journey. ●

Klaus Hueneker (see Contributors in *Wild* no 5) has been walking and ski touring Australia's high country for almost 30 years. A noted wilderness photographer and historian, he is author of the book *Huts of the High Country*.



A full-page background photograph showing a climber in a white shirt and blue pants scaling a massive, craggy rock face. The climber is positioned in the lower-middle section of the frame, facing away from the viewer. The rock is a mix of grey and brown tones with visible textures and cracks. Below the rock, a lush green valley with scattered boulders and a river is visible. The sky is not clearly visible, suggesting a high-altitude or overcast environment.

Wild Climbing

Quentin Chester
interviews one
of the world's
most successful
Himalayan
mountaineers

Doug Scott
the mountaineer's
mountaineer

● IT IS A DECADE SINCE DOUG SCOTT stood on the summit of Mt Everest with Dougal Haston, the culmination of a series of siege-style expeditions to the Southwest Face. Although Scott is perhaps best known for his part in this ascent, his subsequent achievements with close-knit teams climbing alpine style in the Himalayas are even more remarkable.

A powerfully built figure with long shaggy hair, Scott is frequently described by his climbing partners as a 'gentle shuffling bear'. He is certainly a thoughtful individual whose interest in climbing extends beyond technical conquest, and embraces the culture and history of the areas he visits, and the complex relationships among those he climbs with.

Now aged 44, he has enjoyed an immensely varied career that has also seen personal hardship and the deaths of many of his contemporaries in the mountains. Yet his enthusiasm for climbing and his capacity for wonder remain undimmed, as *Wild Special Adviser* Quentin Chester found when Scott visited Australia on a recent lecture tour.

What are your impressions after four days of climbing at Mt Arapiles?

It has been quite an eye-opener; I did not know what to expect. I was very impressed with the climbing and was really sad to be leaving. The routes there are obviously steep and you are very much on your arms—there is a lot of face climbing on small holds. I suppose I was surprised. If a route was, say, grade 19, it would be 19 for every other move, whereas in the UK you tend to have a short burst of 19 and then there is easy ground and a big ledge to sit on. What I liked most was the atmosphere of the pines and the camp. The climbers seemed to have a lot of respect for each other. I like that.

So you still enjoy crag climbing?

Yes, and it is very frustrating going away on expeditions for three or four months and to come home and find it pissing down all winter. You do not get a chance to get on really good routes and be fit enough to do them. But I do enjoy crag climbing more than anything else.

Even on big climbs you seem to be happier on rock.

With modern ice tools and crampons with front points, ice climbing can be quite repetitive, unless you get on to ice-coated buttresses, which are more interesting. I find colours a bit boring. My idea of a good route is something like The Nose on El Capitan where there is pitch after pitch of 5.8 and 5.9 (grade 16-18) jam cracks. My first climbing was gritstone crack-climbing. I have always enjoyed that.

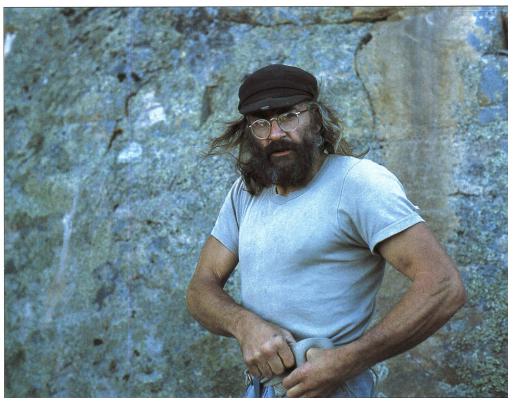
Are there problems when you adopt big-wall tactics on a mixed route like the one on Shivering?

Our equipment was a big problem on Shivering—we would not take so much if we did it again. We had five quite large bags to haul. It was obviously a long climb. In fact I think it turned out to be 62 pitches. And we had equipment for snow and ice,

two big-wall racks, cold-weather gear, heavy sleeping bags, duvets, food, fuel and bivouac equipment for eight days—in the end it took thirteen days. That was the problem; having to take a huge weight over mixed ground. If it had been a straight-up big-wall climb it would have been a lot easier, but dragging the bags round gendarmes and pinnacles on the ridges was quite soul-destroying. Yet there

together and he can stay out for a long time and not get homesick. That is an important factor that rarely gets discussed. But I know a huge number of climbers who have problems staying the course simply because they get homesick.

I used to worry. When Mike started climbing I remembered just how much my parents had worried. But in 1980 I went to the Alps and did a route with him. When



Doug Scott at Mt Arapiles, Victoria. Left, Scott on Missing Link (17), Mt Arapiles. Chris Baxter

was a great sense of accomplishment on Shivering.

By comparison, your ascent of Shishapangma was a smooth operation.

We climbed that route as efficiently as we have ever climbed any route. There were just three of us, Roger Baxter-Jones, Alex MacIntyre and myself, and 3,000 metres of face, all of it unknown, untouched. There was everything to find out about it. But we were all acclimatized as well as we could be, and by the time of the climb we were getting on well together. The main thing was that after two months of pretty bad weather it brightened up, and the snow was perfect—that contributed a lot to us getting up and down in four days.

What is it like climbing with your son? What goes through your mind?

I do not think we will climb together much in the future; he has to go his own way. My horizons at the end of my Himalayan climbing are his, and everyone else's, at their beginning. So he is obviously going to zoom past my level if he has the ability, which, it seems, he has. He is a natural at acclimatization. He has a good head for it. He keeps himself

he led through he was so competent and safe, and he found the way down without any trouble, that I stopped worrying so much. I realized that he would not do anything crazy.

You are something of a survivor. How do you deal with objective dangers?

After taking all the usual precautions, rocks can still come down, slopes can avalanche when you least expect it, and someone like Peter Thexton—a doctor, a sensible lad—can suddenly find himself coughing and spluttering with fluid seeping into his lungs.

All you have really got is a gut feeling about it all, which is hard to describe unless you have experienced it: times when you have known intuitively that it is better to change the decision, to come down, or not to go that day because it does not feel right. Equally suddenly it feels exactly right to go when perhaps you have not got enough food or gas. But suddenly you have a strong feeling inside that you know it is time to go, time to push it. When you are entirely convinced inside yourself then it is amazing how your energies are all channelled in that direction.

Many of your recent expeditions have involved going to an area with a varied team of climbers and supporters to attempt a number of peaks in alpine

style. How important is this approach?

Of the 22 trips I have made to Asia, the Makalu trip in 1980 stands out as being the most successful when you consider the all-round meaning of the word 'success'. We climbed three peaks of between 6,000 and 7,300 metres with Dougal Haston's girlfriend Ariane, and then she went down and we carried on and did Kangshungste in three days. Then we went on to Makalu, which we probably would have climbed had we not had two days of storm at 8,100 metres. Georges Bettembourg had a pain in his liver as well.

The acclimatization period is not only for the acclimatization of the body. There is a definite psychological acclimatization, where you get used to each other. Any differences are brought out into the open and aired, or at least recognized, and adjustments made. So by the time you go for the 'big one' you are pretty confident that you are not going to have any personality clashes, which are a tremendous drain. When you need every ounce of energy for the climb you certainly do not want negative emotional attitudes draining your limited resources.

That is the value of the multi-peak approach. Other people may see it differently. Perhaps it can detract psychologically from the main objective because you can always think to yourself, 'Oh well, I've done these already', and you lose a bit of your drive. Of course you can overdo it on the acclimatization peaks.

When you went back to Makalu in 1981 your family accompanied you. What was that like?

They certainly seemed to enjoy it. Martha was aged nine and went about 6,000 metres in her red wellies, to a pass overlooking Tibet. The family went to Makalu again, in 1983.

The first time the kids went was in 1979 when we did Nupste; the kids went to Everest Base Camp. Rosie was aged about nine months and Martha about seven years. A party of Texan trekkers arrived; they were really right out of it. They had come up a bit too fast and they were coughing and spluttering, and had headaches. Martha emerged and asked them, 'Would you like tea?' So she went to the cook and came out with a big tray of tea. The Texans, eyes wide open, asked 'Gee, how old are you little girl?' 'Seven', she said, 'Would you like to sit down in the kitchen?' They went into the kitchen and there was Rosie, aged nine months, crawling around!

Who have you most enjoyed climbing with?

I particularly enjoyed the climbs with my old mates from the Nottingham Climbers Club on my first expeditions. We hitchhiked to the Atlas Mountains. Our 'desert campaigns' included Tibetsi, south-east Turkey, Turkistan and the Hindu Kush. And although not all of them are climbing now, there is not one of them who is not a good lad to see on a Saturday night in the pub.

More recently there were a lot of friends

ships made on the Everest South-west Face climb. Later, in organizing my own trips, I got to enjoy Georges Bettembourg's and, later, Jean Affanessieff's company. French climbers seem a lot less reserved, more generous with their emotions. Then there is Jimmy Duff, Tut Braithwaite, Roger Baxter-Jones—Roger was a fantastic bloke, and a very powerful climber. I think he was probably stronger than Messner. And I really liked Alex MacIntyre; a young lad at the height of his ambition. He was full of imaginative ideas for the mountains and had a lot of courage to press through. It was inevitable that there would be some kind of clash. But it was nothing. The clashes we had only strengthened our love and respect for each other. I do not think I am saying this just because he has died. I found Alex to be quite an inspiration. He was very honest; everything was always brought out in a very honest fashion. I suppose the important thing to recognize is that there is good and bad in all of us.

So many of these friends, your climbing partners, have been killed in the mountains. How do you deal with this?

I have tended to be fatalistic about the whole question of climbers dying. A lot of this is due to the fact that, in almost every case, someone who was very close to them—mothers, or wives—had some kind of premonition that something was going to happen.

You have written about 'the altered state of consciousness which occurs in the thin cold air'. What is this?

It is not something you notice very much when you are at the height of your ambition. If the big thing is to get a pat on the back from everybody back home for what you have done, then I think you will be blinkered to other things you might get from a trip. I know this personally because that is how I was, and probably still am a lot of the time.

This was the great thing about the 1980 trip with Georges and Roger. They had their ambition well under control, and there did not appear to be anything at all negative in our relationships. So we could sit back and enjoy the aftermath of our nine days out, which was then the longest any of us had been out so high and fought so hard.

I noticed that the sort of thoughts, the little anxieties that go through your head all day every day—the internal dialogue that Carlos Casteneda writes about—had stopped. There was quite a long space of calm between the thoughts racing through your head, and in that space there was peace; that is the whole point of meditation, to slow down the thought processes.

Apart from your own expeditions, are there any you would have liked to have been on?

I think the 1984 Australian Everest Expedition was a particularly good one. I got letters about the trip from Jimmy Duff and it sounded like they had achieved a

lot of respect for each other. It seemed that these lads had got it together enough to build up more energy as a group than anyone could produce for himself. With all that collective energy working in one direction, without anything in the way, it was a perfect trip, apart from poor old Andy getting frostbite.

What mountain areas do you still want to visit?

I have never been to South America and would still like to go there. I had planned to go with Georges, but he was killed. Then I was going with Paul Braithwaite, but his wife had a baby.

I am getting more enjoyment from shorter trips. In February 1985, for instance, I went to Vancouver Island with Greg Child and Rob Wood. We did a new route on Colonel Foster, which is right in the middle of the island. You have to walk in on skis through thick forests. We went on to the climb in the afternoon and bivouacked. Then there were about 20 pitches as good as the first pitch of Zero Gully on Ben Nevis. That was a really good trip.

Later that year I went to Iceland. With three Icelandic friends, I climbed the third highest summit in Iceland. Again we had beautiful weather, and it was a good four-day trip. I got as much pleasure out of that sort of trip as anything.

Where to next?

I am going to Bhutan in September. It is a place I have always wanted to go and it should be really good. Out of the blue I was asked to go by a climber from Bristol called Steve Berry. By chance he had obtained permission for the highest peak in Bhutan. It would be interesting enough to just go to see this last Buddhist kingdom.

I would like to go with Chris Bonington again. I always say that to go on a trip with Chris is easier than taking the wife and kids to Wales for the week-end. You just get a ticket and all you have to do is get to the airport on time.

Anything planned beyond Bhutan?

I would still like to do a route on K2. No one has done a route on K2 in alpine style. I have been to K2 three times to try new routes. I have still got enough ambition that I would like to climb K2. I am thinking of going with Voytek Kurytka, and one or two others, in 1987.

Why is K2 called 'the mountaineer's mountain'?

Only a handful of people have been to the top of K2. I do not know how many have been on top of Everest, maybe 200. That is not just because Everest is the highest and everyone wants to do the highest. K2 is steep on all sides; it is everyone's idea of a mountain, a great big one sticking up head and shoulders above all the others. ●

Quentin Chester (see Contributors in Wild no 3) is an active climber, bushwalker and ski tourist. He works in Sydney for the chain of Paddy Palin specialist outdoor shops, and is an outdoor education instructor.

Scott on the fourth winter ascent of the North-east Spur of Les Droites, France. Scott collection

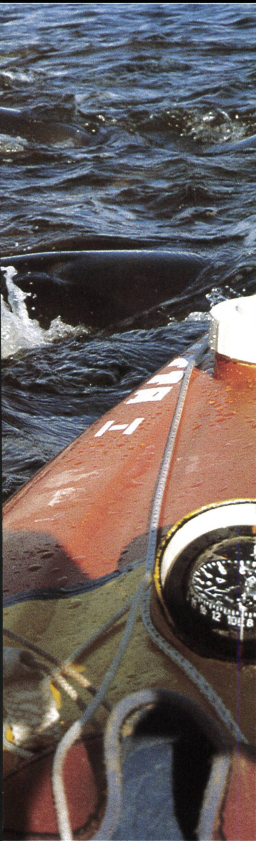


Wild Canoeing



Whale

Tony Dicker recalls his bitter-sweet encounter



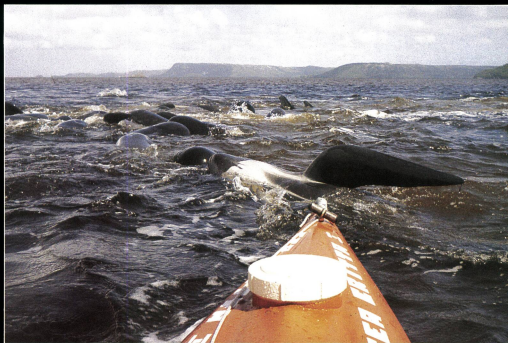
● IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT mutilation of countless pilot whales in Denmark, and with the ludicrous situation of one section of the human population doing all it can to protect whales and the other butchering them, I write of my own chance encounter with the lovable pilot whales. This is an effort to highlight the character and soul of these water beings and, hopefully, to add weight to the growing acceptance and protective feelings of humans towards all exploited animals.

The small and quivering pilot whale had been alongside my canoe for almost 15 minutes—he was just one of 52 such whales that had found themselves trapped

and stroked his head: there was no doubt that he recognized me as a being who wished only to help. Finally, when I could bring myself to let him go, I began an attempt to herd the group towards the mouth of the harbour and away from the shallows of destruction.

After four exhausting and unsuccessful attempts, I sat bewildered and distressed amongst the plaintive cries and panic-stricken bodies. As difficult as it was to accept, this was something I could do nothing about!

I was suffering the after-effects of prolonged starvation, having fallen seven metres from a cliff seven days earlier. I had severe lacerations and a suspected



'The shallow water was stirred into a sandy soup...'
Dicker

in the inner reaches of Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's remote south-western coastline.

It was a disaster; some were on their backs, floating, while others tried to turn them over. Some dived and came racing back to the surface, lifting their tails high out of the water, smashing them down and sending spray all over me. The shallow water was stirred into a sandy soup which meant that the whales could see little—thus adding to the trauma of their already frantic situation.

My desperate companion nuzzled against the canoe just like a frightened child, and his whimpering cries spelt out his anguish. I held him firmly with my arm

broken foot. For six days I had been trapped in a cove at the mercy of the longest storm I had ever experienced.

'LOOK AT THEM! ... LOOK AT ME!', I shouted, 'WHY?'

There was no answer and, as much as the act was totally foreign to me, I was forced to turn and paddle away, leaving those grieving beings with their human cries and human ways to fend for themselves.

While recuperating for two days at Strahan, I was overjoyed to learn that Project Jonah had arrived on the scene and, with the help of many enthusiastic locals, managed to return 47 of the whales to sea. My heart still went out to those who died and I dearly hoped that my little companion had not been one of them! ●

Tragedy

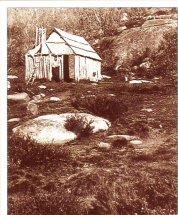
with whales trapped on Tasmania's south-west coast



A Bush



Klaus Hueneker reconstructs an epic walk from Bright to Mallacoota by way of Mt Bogong and Mt Kosciusko



● EVERY PROJECT HAS ITS HIGH point, the moment when everything you have been sleuthing for suddenly makes sense, and with my new book, *Kiandra to Kosciusko*, it was the receipt of a unique album of photographs taken by George Hope on a long high-country walk in 1904-05. My receiving it depended on the successful fusing of a long chain of crucial links. These included writing a letter to the Editor of the *Age* newspaper, him publishing it, Mrs Hope (George was her husband's great-uncle) buying the paper that day, her seeing and reading my letter, her remembering 'that old album', her taking the initiative to write to me, me convincing her to send the album by registered mail (it is a long way from Canberra to Geelong), Australia Post not losing it, and finally me receiving it.

The journey of George Barcroft Hope, H Rutter and Charlie Smart

First camp, on the Ovens River, 25 November 1904. Above, a hut on the Bogong High Plains, 30 November 1904. All photos Hope collection

Christmas, 1904

was a particularly long and historic one which started at Bright in Victoria on 25 November 1904 and finished on Gabo Island, near Mallacoota Inlet, on 13 January 1905. During the seven weeks they forded numerous cold rivers like the Kiewa, Murray and Snowy. They climbed major peaks like Mt Bogong, Mt Kosciuszko

tell us most about their attire and their camping gear. All wore hob-nailed boots, coarse-weave long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeve shirts, a belt with an assortment of leather pouches, and a hat. After seven hard weeks the pants still looked in reasonable condition, but the shirts were much the worse for wear. A

of swagmen were to use a similar front-and-back system over the following 30 years.

We know that George owned the plate camera, beautifully made of wood, brass and leather, and that it required plates, plate holders and a tripod. It measured 15 centimetres square, was sold by W H Tomkinson, photographic dealer of 81 Dale Street, Liverpool, England, and on this journey took at least 43 photos. It was probably the heaviest single item carried.

As far as food was concerned, they only carried basic necessities like flour, sugar and tea, and whenever possible lived off the land. They shot whatever game they could find, including kangaroos and, on one desperate occasion, cockatoos, which they made into a stew but found almost inedible. Rabbits may have crossed their path but, unlike other parts of Australia, were still fairly rare in the mountains.

George's rifle apparently shot to the left until he fell down a cliff with it, bending it, after which it shot straight. At one stage after many days of 'hard tucker' they came to a homestead with an orchard full of trees laden with ripe fruit. This proved irresistible, and with the permission of the owner they had a mighty feast.



Jack Riley outside his hut at Tom Groggin, 15 December 1904. Near right, wading the Snowy River at Suggan Buggan, 23 December 1904. Opposite, lunch on Mt Fainter, 29 November 1904.

and Mt Tingaringy, and visited mountain outposts like Hinnomungie homestead. They also called on people like Jack Riley, later to become one of the legendary 'Men from Snowy River'.

Unlike the explorers before them, their's was not a journey for material rewards such as a generous land grant or new grazing lands for starving cattle. No, their's was a journey of the heart, to enjoy. By all accounts they were a trio of final-year engineering students from the University of Melbourne, heading off into the bush to celebrate the completion of their studies. In the process they became early pioneers of bushwalking, long before people like Miles Dunphy, Bill Waters, Jack Thwaites and Paddy Pallin turned it into a household word.

George Hope started to bushwalk as a schoolboy in the 1890s, and on one occasion walked from Geelong to Cape Otway, a distance of 140 kilometres. He preferred to walk on a compass bearing, irrespective of obstacles, and even in his eighties could outwalk fit men half his age. His interests in natural history and geology made him a fascinating companion. Bushwalking in those days was without modern-day contour maps, hip-hugging rucksacks, down sleeping bags and blizzard-proof tunnel tents.

The first and the last photos in the album of the Bright-to-Mallacoota journey

suit coat that appears in the first photo seems to have been discarded during the journey!

Two of them smoked pipes, or at least posed with them, and George was the only one to wear leather leggings. He also carried a rifle and pocket watch. As

Their's was a journey of the heart.

students of engineering and surveying, they probably carried a compass and other survey equipment. Water was carried in a canvas bag with a ceramic neck, and boiled in a quart pot or one of an assortment of tin billies.

Their nightly shelter was a big white tarpaulin pulled over a rope suspended between two upright sticks. The sides may have been pegged to the ground or weighted down with rocks. It did not have a floor or end flaps that could be zipped together. During the day it was rolled into a swag and carried by a strap slung over the shoulder. Each man carried a ground-sheet, a blanket and two canvas bags containing food, a change of clothes, and other personal gear. It may have included a razor and shaving brush. The bags were knotted together at the top and, like the bed roll, slung over the shoulder: hundreds



Unfortunately, the results were rather drastic and they came away tender and sore in the nether regions!

The course of their journey can be fairly accurately plotted as far as Delegate in New South Wales. After that it is a little hazy. It began in Bright, and first camp was on the Owens River on 25 November. Next day they reached the expansive Kiewa valley and had a superb view of Mt Bogong. The Kiewa River was waded above Tawonga and, using one of the tracks that ascends from Mountain Creek, they climbed Mt Bogong. They admired the view, clambered around chunks of old snow and boiled the billy. By 2 December they had climbed Mt Fainter, crossed the Bogong High Plains, and walked to Hinnomungie homestead near Omeo.

At Hinnomungie they were greeted by three well-groomed women who appear to be a mother and her lovely daughters. George was very impressed and took some trouble to photograph the trio. Later, in the dark-room he singled out the daughters for special vignetting. Their soft pale features are framed by piled-up curls, pearl necklaces and high-neck blouses with puffy leg-of-mutton sleeves.

Some days later they headed north-east for Tom Groggin, via Limestone Creek and



the Murray River. It took eight days, so it must have been fairly rugged, with a lot of river-bank scrambling. In parts they may have used tracks made for early gold-miners. Jack Riley greeted them at Tom Groggin and posed for several photographs. In those days his log hut had a slab annex and a shingle roof, and was surrounded by tall dead trees, a picket fence and, in the foreground, a vegetable patch. Two old panning dishes adorned the front wall. Jack was about 53 years old at the time.

From Tom Groggin the, by now, fit and hardened trio climbed the Rams Head Range and visited Wragges Observatory on Mt Kosciusko. An out-of-focus photo shows the hut in poor condition, even though Wragges's men had abandoned it only several years before. Descent was probably by Dead Horse Gap, and four days later, on 21 December, they stood on top of the Pilot, that lonely sentry of the NSW/Victorian border.

Now they were in very wild country indeed, with few inhabitants, practically no roads and many steep mountains. In rapid succession they reached the Suggan Buggan River, the Snowy River, Cutta-Murra Creek (or Gattamurh Creek), Tingaringy Creek, Mt Tingaringy, and finally Delegate. Another specially vignetted photo marks the celebration of Christmas Eve on Tingaringy Creek. At 'Tellicuro' (not

found on any recent maps) they met the family of Mr R H Wait. Nearly all photos depict burnt forest and a clear under-



'Ye three Tugs'; C P Smart, left, G B Hope and H Rutter on Telleberga Island, 11 January 1905.

storey, making walking much easier than it is today.

Their route from Delegate to Gipsy Point on the Genoa River in Victoria is a mystery. But it only took three days; not nearly

enough time to walk, but long enough to ride a horse or hitch a lift with a horse-drawn wagon or coach. By 5 January they had walked round the marshy shore of Mallacoota Inlet to Charlie Rasmus's wattlebark hut and boat shed, and on

A suit coat seems to have been discarded during the journey!

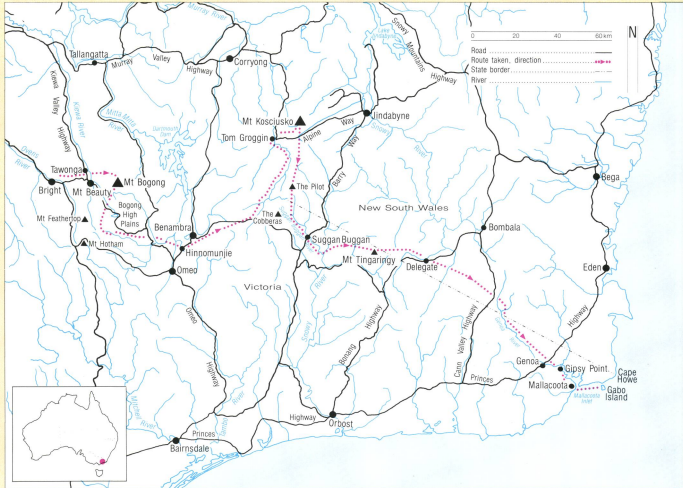
11 January they visited Telleberga Island in the company of Captain Peter Pearson.

In 1905 it was easier to go to Melbourne by coastal steamer than by road, and on 13 January the SS *Lady Loch* picked them up on Gabo Island.

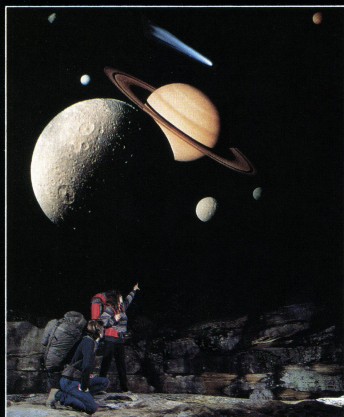
During their seven-week mid-summer epic they had walked over 400 kilometres and climbed a total of 8,500 vertical metres, almost the same height as Mt Everest. ●

Klaus Hueneke (see Contributors in Wild no 5) has been walking and ski touring Australia's high country for almost 30 years. A noted wilderness photographer and historian, he is author of the book *Huts of the High Country*.

Bright to Gabo Island



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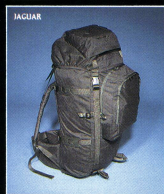
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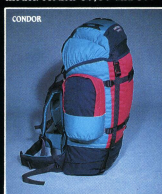
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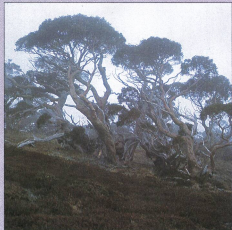
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David Tatnall

Snow gums on Mt Bogong. Right, Mt Buffalo Plateau. Over, the Crosscut Saw. All photos were taken in the Victorian Alps.





Folio







Royal National Park

Bushwalking on Sydney's doorstep, by Stephen Bunton

Track Notes

● WHEN A LARGE AREA OF BUSHLAND TO THE south of Sydney was proclaimed a public reserve in 1879 it showed extraordinary foresight on the part of the New South Wales Government of the time. In 1886 it became Royal National Park, only the second National Park in the world (after Yellowstone National Park in the USA). The notion that this region would be of immense value as recreational space for the inhabitants of Sydney has since been proved true. Each week-end thousands of urban escapees enter the park to enjoy a variety of activities. Although the area could no longer be considered wilderness it is still a valuable recreational resource.

'The National Park' occupies 15,000 hectares bordering on Sydney's southern suburbs. It acts as a substantial green belt which separates the metropolis of Sydney from that of Wollongong. The park extends along the Pacific coastline, bordered to the north by Port Hacking, and to the south by the urbanization of Otford and Helensburgh. The thin strip of civilization along the Princes Highway and the Illawarra railway running parallel to it provides its western boundary.

Potential for enjoyment, excitement or relaxation within the park is limitless. For decades families have planned traditional barbecues at the many sites in the park. Rock fishermen have always haunted its shores, whilst others have been content with a ferry ride to Bundeena, or the hire of a row-boat at Audley.

Today people's activities are as non-traditional as windsurfing, scuba diving and nude sunbathing. The park caters for them all. If 'parks are for people' then this is the park that most of them choose, and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service realizes it. An effective and constantly updated land-use plan is in operation to minimize the impact upon the natural features. Surf beaches have shower/toilet blocks. There are kiosks, but there appear to be adequate bins and garbage disposal to reduce the litter problem. Picnic areas are tastefully laid out to accommodate people without a feeling of overcrowding. The look-outs, places of interest and tracks are well signposted. The NPWS also provides pamphlets as guides to the walking tracks and access roads.

To enjoy the park fully you do not need to be a hard-core bushwalker. Royal National Park provides a non-serious introduction to the joys of the bush. Many school children first visit the park on an educational excursion. Those whose parents did not take them on a picnic when they were younger might venture forth on a camping



Misty morning, Hacking River. Left, sea cliffs, Wattamolla. Gary Tischer

trip at a later stage. Other teenagers may need surfing as an excuse to spend a week-end in the park. More established park users may even have their own seaside shack in the park. Today these shacks might be considered unsightly, but they reflect the historical air that pervades 'the Royal'. At one stage, a population of red deer was introduced to the park. Now the deer are facing extinction because of their feral status.

Today the park may still be considered to be under threat from its proximity to urbanization, the feral cat and the feral trail bike. The NPWS is doing its best to educate the population of park users, and it seems an ideal place for people to learn an appreciation of our Australian bushland. At the park headquarters, at Audley, there are regular screenings of a magnificent multi-projector audio-visual presentation showing to advantage the park's many attributes.

The geology of the Sydney Basin may not make for the most dramatic bushwalking scenery, but this characteristic landscape yields a profusion of plant and animal species. The park is a birdwatcher's paradise and after dark

is alive with our native nocturnal animals. The numerous roads provide excellent access for the naturalist, novice bushwalker, resident and picnicker alike.

The spectacle of this park is its variety of habitats. The sandstone plateau has been dissected by both the sea and streams. Wind-blown heath extends to the tops of the cliffs which plunge into the ocean. Sheltered coves allow the growth of banksia and ti-tree. Sand dunes have choked some seaward-flowing streams, producing picturesque lagoons. Ecological succession can be observed as spinifex invades the sand or where mangroves colonize estuarine mud flats of Port Hacking. The Hacking River has carved a deep valley, which can be followed by driving along Lady Carrington Drive. This trip reveals the dark mysteries of a lush rainforest replete with its majestically tall eucalypts. By contrast, the moist conditions provide a home for numerous species of the park's smallest inhabitants, frogs and their insect prey. No matter where you choose to walk, or simply picnic, you cannot help but be astounded at the natural wealth and beauty of Royal National Park.

In 1879 it may have seemed a huge tract of

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600 Treeline Mummy	600	1.3	-3° C	Good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Acceptable	—	—
920 Snowfield Modified Rectangular	920	1.9	-8° C	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Very good	Acceptable	—
900 Snowfield Mummy	900	1.8	-12° C	Acceptable	Good	Very good	Very good	Excellent	Very good	—
1100 Glacier Mummy	1100	2.0	-20° C	—	—	Acceptable	Acceptable	Very good	Excellent	Excellent

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land to place aside for posterity. Today it is only a small park by comparison to other National Parks. Its value as a recreational resource, however, far exceeds any other. Arguably it is the most important National Park in Australia.

When to go. All year round. Parties should consider their length of intended stay so that they are suitably prepared. In summer this may mean carrying water, sunburn cream or possibly even a raincoat if a southerly buster is predicted. In winter the weather is usually fine and mild; no doubt you will be carrying a jumper anyway.

Maps. The Central Mapping Authority of NSW 1:25,000 series sheets of *Port Hacking* and *Otford* cover the park. There is also a useful 1:30,000 *Tourist Map* by the CMA.

Access. A number of roads enter the park at various places. Many of the roads are the access roads to Otford and Bundeena or the beaches of Garie and Wattamolla. The stations along the Illawarra railway line provide access to the west and south. The Bundeena ferry leaves from Cronulla station. In conjunction with the train service, this ferry provides the ideal opportunity for a number of interesting through-trips without the problems of a car-swap. Similarly, two railway stations can be used judiciously. This style of public transport utilization is the most attractive feature of bushwalking in the park for those young people who cannot yet drive.

Port Hacking can also be crossed by small boat, sailing craft or canoe from any of the boat ramps in the shire of Sutherland.

The walks

Easy half-day walks—short return trips

These are walks which can be taken at your leisure, with no special equipment required.

- 1 Bundeena to Jibbon Point
- 2 Bundeena to Marley Beach
- 3 Bundeena Road to Marley Beach
- 4 Wattamolla Road to Curracurrang
- 5 Otford Look-out to Werrong Beach
- 6 Otford Look-out to Burning Palms
- 7 Garie Beach to Era Beach
- 8 Heathcote to Karloo Pool

Committing day trips

These involve the use of public transport and thus dictate that you reach your destination at a certain time. A day pack is recommended, if only to carry your lunch.

- 1 Waterfall Station to Heathcote Station via the Uloola Track
- 2 Waterfall to Audley
- 3 Heathcote to Audley

**The Coast Walk—Lilyvale (or Otford)
Station to Bundeena Ferry**

This is the classic two-day walk which traverses the length of the park and takes in the whole of its magnificent coastal scenery. The walk could be done in reverse but would need to finish at Otford because Lilyvale is not a scheduled stop. Also, it is easier to walk south to north with the wind at your back.

You will need to inform the guard of the train, when you board it at Sutherland, that you wish to alight at Lilyvale station. From Lilyvale station descend into a little gully behind the platform and cross a small creek. This gives access to the Karingal Picnic Area. Cross the picnic area at its southern end to meet Lady Wakehurst Drive. The track to the coast begins here and is well signposted, as are other possible day walks.

The track heads east into the bush and ascends steeply through woodland. Heathland

begins at the top of the rise, and the track from Oford comes in from the right. To the left is an alternative route to Burning Palms. The recommended way is straight ahead until the scarp is met, and an excellent view down into Werrong Beach gives assurance that you are going the right way. This track descends to Burning Palms by skirting beneath a series of cliffs. Here is your first venture into the rainforest which occupies the various sheltered niches along the coast.

From Burning Palms the track leads past a collection of beach huts and over a grassy headland, where once again beach huts are encountered. The track now leads round the rock platform or over another grassy headland, depending on the tide. The traverse of the rock platform to Garie Beach can be made even at high tide, except when there is a heavy sea running. Either Era Beach or Garie Beach provides an ideal lunch spot. There is a kiosk at Garie.

Crossing the vast sand expanse of Garie Beach might seem tiring, but the hill at the end of it is the steepest of the whole walk. Once again you are on top of the sandstone plateau and the cliff-top views become progressively more spectacular. The track cuts across the heath and through banksia and ti-tree scrub where New Holland honeyeaters play amongst the blossoms. A great view of Eagle Rock is

enjoyed as you descend to Curracurrong. The continuation of this track leads to the numerous good campsites at Curracurrang. (Some people prefer to camp at North Era.)

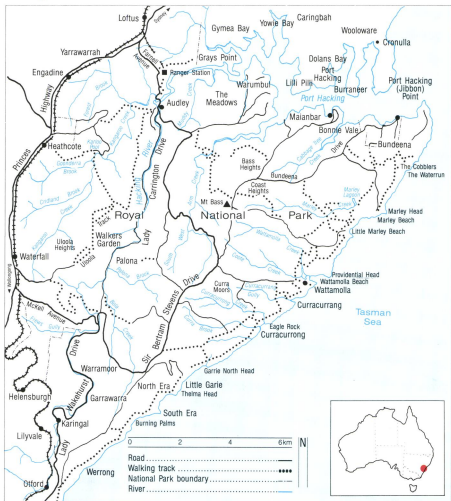
Campsites along the coast are desperately short of firewood. The NPWS insists that you carry a stove. The NPWS also regulates the usage of campsites by prohibiting camping at various localities for a duration of two years. It rotates these areas. Currently there is no camping at Marley, but in the past the ban has applied at Curracurrang. Parties should consult the park rangers before setting out.

Beyond Curracurrang a short cliff-top walk leads to Wattamolla. From here the height of the cliffline gradually diminishes to the large-bayed beach of Marley and Little Marley. These are inspiring places for a lunch stop and possibly a swim. Some modicum of care is needed because all the beaches in the park are steep, and the surf rough and with treacherous rips.

The final cliffhike traverse is more open and impressive than that previously experienced. It provides a suitable climax to a worthwhile walk. The final challenge is navigating through the suburban streets to locate the ferry terminal. On a Sunday afternoon you are sure to find more than one local resident watering their roses. ●

Stephen Bunton (see Contributors in Wild no 6) is Wild's Contributing Editor for caving. He has been caving for 14 years and is an active bushwalker, climber, canyoner and Nordic skier.

Royal National Park



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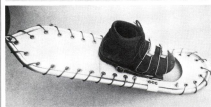
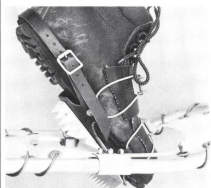
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Skiing the Australian Alps

Wild Activities Survey

The best places to go, and how to get there, by *Barbara Bryan* and *Michael Collie*

● JUST AS A BLIZZARD-STRICKEN SKI TOURER might wish it were instantly summer, many plodding bushwalkers long for the miraculous transformation of their domain to an alpine landscape: they dream of exchanging their laborious gait for the skier's smooth motion. Winter snow, apart from providing the pleasures of skiing, makes much of the Australian Alps accessible only by ski. The Alps assume much of their former pristine character when roads and trails are concealed under a mantle of snow. Exploring each winter's unique gift of snow and ice, and mastering skiing techniques, is an enduring challenge.

This survey examines the potential of places in the Australian Alps for ski tourers by considering their character, facilities, access and available information. The accompanying map features, in pale blue, land above 1,500 metres.

The cross country ski season normally extends from June to early October in Victoria and from late May to November in New South Wales. Skiing can often be enjoyed in early December on the Main Range near Mt Kosciuszko after a good winter.

If you do not have experienced skiers as friends, cross country ski clubs offer inexpensive tuition for members, opportunities to join trips in the company of experienced leaders, and a wide range of people to share your winter experiences with. You can contact clubs by enquiring at shops selling cross country skiing equipment, or through the ACT Ski Council Nordic Committee, PO Box 376, Canberra, ACT 2601; Australian Ski Federation Nordic Committee, and NSW Ski Association Nordic Committee, Room 302, Sports House, 157 Gloucester Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, (02) 241 1581; Ski Touring Association of Victoria, GPO Box 204, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, (03) 329 2262; or Victorian Ski Association Nordic Committee, PO Box 210, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205, (03) 699 3292. Instruction and tours are also provided by commercial operators. (Refer to Ski Touring Survey in *Wild* no 17, and the Adventure Activities Directory in this issue.)

Beginners. Cross country skiing can be enjoyed with little technique or experience. Areas described in the table as **Developed** are suitable for unsupervised beginners. Developed areas may offer sheltered, marked and groomed trails, the security of safety patrols, and possibly shops and commercial ski instructors. Developed areas are served by cleared, all-weather roads and likely to be close to an alpine resort.

A **Semi-developed** area has trails marked with pole lines or signs for day touring. Semi-developed areas are reached by all-weather roads and are suitable for beginners with guidance.

Skiers should acquire adequate fitness, experience, and survival and navigation skills near Developed areas before venturing further



Skiing the Paralyser, Snowy Mountains, New South Wales. Bill Bachman

afeld. Inadequately equipped skiers are at risk even in Developed areas. Skiers must be well equipped and prepared for all conditions. Knowledge of alpine weather is needed by all skiers; clear sunny skies can quickly give way to blizzard conditions. Even in Semi-developed areas, severe conditions can be a hazard. In 1985 two skiers died whilst trying to descend Mt Stirling (Victoria) in poor weather. (Refer to the Editorial and *Wild* Information in *Wild* no 19.)

Experienced skiers. Skiers should only venture beyond Developed areas in a party of at least four people, and with adequate navigation skills. An area described in the table as a **Semi-remote** area may have signs, pole lines above the snow line, possibly huts and some visitor information, but is rendered inaccessible by snow. Skiing in a Semi-remote area will take you a few kilometres from access roads.

A **Remote** area is suitable only for small, experienced and self-sufficient groups. There

are unlikely to be pole lines, or signs, few if any huts and very little touring information. A Remote area is inaccessible and rarely visited during winter. Road access may often be more than several kilometres away.

Roads referred to in the table are not patrolled or cleared during winter unless they are specifically described as cleared. Great care must be taken when using unpatrolled remote roads to avoid being stranded after a snowfall. Chains and a shovel should always be carried in your car during winter. Information about road conditions can be obtained from local people and the government departments controlling each area.

Skilling areas are surveyed from north-east to south-west. The nearest road access and major town is given, as well as the distance from the nearest capital city.

The maps listed are currently available from map and outdoor equipment shops.

Because very little of the Victorian Alps is above the tree line (about 1,700 metres) skiing marginal snow fields is more popular than it is in New South Wales where there is a massive area of exposed country. ●

Further reading

Bushwalking, Camping and Ski Touring by Tim Lamble (Paddy Pallin, 1985).

Bushwalking in Kosciusko National Park by Charles Warner (Charles Warner, 1983).

Comfort Below Freezing by Roberts McQuilkin
(Anderson World, 1980).

Cross Country Downhill by Steve Barnett
(Pacific Search Press, 1982).

Cross Country Skiing Guide edited by John Hamburger (World Publications, 1978).

Mountaineering First Aid by Martha Lentz, Steven Macdonald and Jan Carline (The Mountaineers, 1985).

Skiing the High Plains by Harry Stephenson (Harry Stephenson, 1981).

Snow Camping by *Nordic World* magazine (World Publications, 1975).

Snowy Mountains Walks (Gehee Club, 1983).
Winter Safety Handbook by *Nordic World*

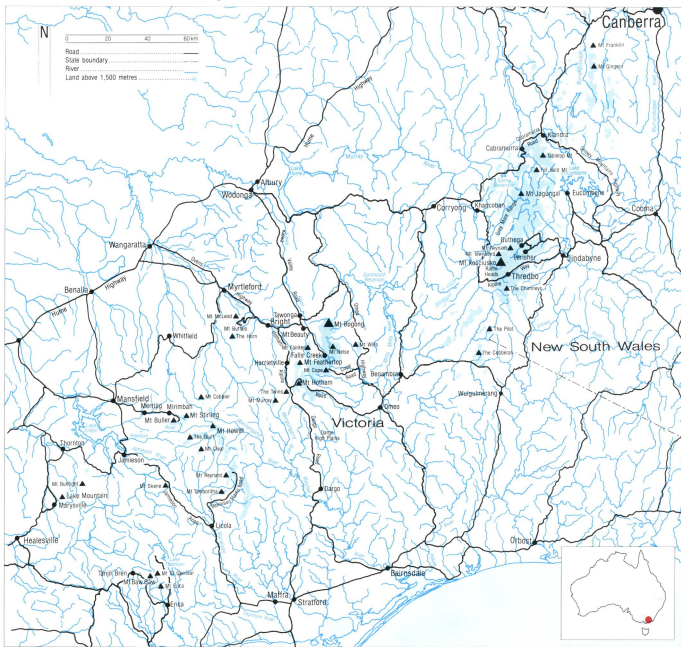
magazine (World Publications, 1976).

Barbara Bryan (see Contributors in *Wild* no 17) is a keen ski tourist and has been an active bushwalker for 17 years. She has walked in Kenya, New Zealand and the USA, as well as throughout Australia.

Michael Collie is *Wild's* designer and is responsible for advertising in *Wild*. He has a passion for skiing in obscure places and excavating snowbound cars.

Jaloo, Chris Myers

The Australian Alps



Wild Activities Survey



Wild Activities Survey Where to Ski Tour

Area	Character	Access	Map(s)
Brindabellas			
Mt Franklin, Mt Gingera	Remote	Mt Franklin Road (56 km Can)	1:100,000 Brindabella and Tarrangera Natmap, 1:50,000 Brindabella CMA
Northern Snowy Mountains			
Tartaranga Mountain	Semi-remote	Kiandra, Snowy Mountains Highway (cleared) (210 km Can)	1:100,000 Berridale, Kosciusko, Tarrangera and Yarrangobilly Natmap
Mt Selwyn	Developed	Three Mile Dam, Cabramurra Road (cleared), Snowy Mountains Highway (216 km Can)	As above
Kings Cross Road	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Mt Tabetop	Semi-remote	Mt Selwyn, as above	As above
Cabramurra	Developed	Cabramurra Road (cleared), Snowy Mountains Highway (225 km Can)	As above
North-west Snowy Mountains			
Pretty Plain, Tabor Range, the Gungahli Range	Remote	Tooma Reservoir, Tooma Road, Khancoban (475 km Mel); Cabramurra, Cabramurra Road, Snowy Mountains Highway, Guthega	1:100,000 Kosciusko Natmap, 1:50,000 Khancoban CMA, 1:50,000 Round Mountain VMTC
Grey Mare Range	Remote	Guthega, Island Bend Road (cleared) (503 km Syd); Robertson's Ridge, Pinnacle Fire Trail, Ghehi Reservoir, Alpine Way (cleared) (554 km Syd); Ghehi Reservoir, Ghehi Reservoir Road, as above; Tooma Reservoir, Tooma Road, Khancoban (475 km Mel)	1:100,000 Kosciusko Natmap, 1:50,000 Mount Kosciusko and Khancoban CMA
Mt Jagungal			
Mt Jagungal, Strumbo Range, the Gungahli Range	Remote	Mt Selwyn, Cabramurra Road (cleared) (216 km Can); Gungahlin Range, Eucumbene (172 km Can); Guthega, Island Bend Road (cleared) (503 km Syd)	1:100,000 Berridale, Kosciusko, Tarrangera and Yarrangobilly Natmap, 1:50,000 Khancoban CMA, 1:50,000 Round Mountain VMTC
Main Range, Snowy Mountains			
Mt Tate, Mt Anderson, Mt Anton, Mt Twynham, Blue Lake, Western Crags, Little Australia, Mt Townsend, Mt Northcote	Remote	Guthega, Island Bend Road (cleared) (503 km Syd); Perisher, Kosciusko Road (cleared) (496 km Syd); Thredbo (chair lift), Alpine Way (cleared) (501 km Syd, 554 km Mel)	1:100,000 Kosciusko Natmap, 1:50,000 Mount Kosciusko CMA, 1:25,000 Perisher-Smoggin Holes-Charlister Pass-Guthega Alpina
Perisher Village	Developed	Perisher, Kosciusko Road (cleared) (496 km Syd)	1:100,000 Kosciusko Natmap, 1:50,000 Mount Kosciusko CMA
Rams Head Range	Semi-developed	As above	1:25,000 Perisher-Smoggin Holes-Charlister Pass-Guthega Alpina
Mt Kosciusko, Rams Heads	Semi-remote	As above; Thredbo (chair lift), Alpine Way (cleared) (501 km Syd)	1:100,000 Kosciusko Natmap, 1:50,000 Mount Kosciusko CMA
Great Divide, South of Kosciusko			
Cascades, the Chimneys (Ridge)	Remote	Dead Horse Gap, Alpine Way (cleared), Thredbo (506 km Syd), the Cobberas	1:100,000 Jacobs River Natmap
The Plot	As above	As above	As above
The Cobberas	As above	Black Mountain Track, Wulgulmerang (430 km Mel); Tin Mine Road, Benambra (443 km Mel) As above	As above

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Wild Activities Survey Where to Ski Tour

Area	Character	Access	Maps
Mt Bogong			
Mt Bogong Summit	Semi-remote	Mountain Creek Road, Towonga South (475 km Mel); Bogong High Plains; Long Spur, Mt Wills, Omeo Highway (472 km Mel)	1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:25,000 Nelise and Trappers Creek Vicmap
West Peak, Quartz Ridge	Remote	Mt Bogong summit, Mountain Creek Road, Towonga South; Timms Lookout, Bogong High Plains	As above
Mt Wills	Semi-remote	Omeo Highway	1:25,000 Mt Wills Vicmap
Bogong High Plains			
Falls Creek	Developed	Kiewa Valley Road (cleared), Mt Beauty (372 km Mel)	1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:63,360 Feathertop Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands, 1:25,000 Nelise Vicmap
Mt Nelise, Spion Koppe	Semi-remote	Falls Creek	As above
Mt Cope, Mt Jim	As above	Falls Creek, Cope Road, Omeo Highway (460 km Mel)	1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:25,000 Cope and Feathertop Vicmap
Mt Fanner, the Niggerheads	Remote	Falls Creek, Fanner Fire Track, Bogong Village (350 km Mel)	1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:25,000 Fanner and Feathertop Vicmap
Mt Feathertop			
Bungallow Spur	Semi-remote	Harrietville, Owens Highway (500 km Mel)	1:63,360 Feathertop Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands, 1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:50,000 Falls Creek-Mount Hotham David Rowlands, 1:25,000 Feathertop and Harrietville Vicmap
North-west Spur	Remote	Stony Creek, Owens Highway (496 km Mel)	As above
The Razorback	Semi-remote	Mt Hotham, Alpine Road (cleared), Harrietville (455 km Mel)	As above
Mt Hotham			
Hotham Village, the Big Spur, Wire Plain, Whiskey Flat	Developed	Mt Hotham, Alpine Road (cleared), Harrietville (366 km Mel); Alpine Road (cleared), Omeo (455 km Mel)	1:63,360 Feathertop Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands, 1:63,360 Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks Algonia, 1:50,000 Cross Country Hotham-Falls Creek Algonia, 1:50,000 Falls Creek-Mount Hotham David Rowlands, 1:25,000 Sawegoon-Whiskey Flat-J-B Plain Ski Trails Algonia, 1:25,000 Feathertop Vicmap
Mt Loch	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Machinery Spur	Semi-remote	As above	As above
Bowler Plain, Mt Tabletop	As above	Pow Paw Plain, Alpine Road, Mt Hotham	1:100,000 Dargo Natmap
The Twins, Mt Murray	Remote	Mt St Bernard, Alpine Road (357 km Mel)	1:100,000 Dargo and Howitt Natmap, 1:25,000 Harrietville Vicmap
Mt Buffalo			
Tatra Inn Trails	Developed	Tatra Inn, Tourist Road (cleared), Pomperunah (335 km Mel)	1:63,360 Mt Buffalo National Park Algonia, 1:30,000 Mt Buffalo Plateau G Lawford
The Horn	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Wild Dog Plain	Semi-remote	Tourist Road (cleared), Pomperunah	As above
Mt McLeod	Remote	As above	As above
Dargo High Plains			
Dargo High Plains	Remote	Dargo Road, Dargo (325 km Mel); Alpine Road (cleared), Mt St Bernard, Harrietville (357 km Mel)	1:100,000 Dargo Natmap
Mt Howitt, Snowy Range			
Bennison Plains	Semi-developed	Tamboritha Saddle, Tamboritha Road, Licola (298 km Mel)	1:100,000 Howitt Natmap, 1:63,360 Snowy Plains, Mt Wellington and Lake Tai Karng VMTC
The Lost Plain	As above	Bennison Plains Road, Licola (311 km Mel)	As above
Mt Reynard	Semi-remote	As above	As above
Mt Howitt, Mt Speculation	Remote	Eight Mile Gap, Brocks Road, Howqua Track, Mt Bulter Road, Merrig (241 km Mel); Bennison Plains Road, Licola	1:126,720 Macalister River Watershed VMTC, 1:100,000 Howitt Natmap
Cobbler Plateau	As above	Cobbler Lake Road, Whitfield (329 km Mel)	As above
The Bluff, Mt Clear			
The Bluff, Mt Clear, Mt Lovick	Remote	Eight Mile Gap, Brocks Road, Howqua Track, Mt Bulter Road, Merrig (241 km Mel)	1:100,000 Howitt Natmap, 1:50,000 The Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers VMTC
Mt Stirling			
King Saddle, lower trails	Developed	Telephone Box Junction, Stirling Road (cleared), Mirimbah (225 km Mel)	1:50,000 The Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers VMTC, 1:25,000/1:12,500 Mt Stirling Algonia
Mt Stirling	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Howqua Spur, Falls Nest Spur, River Spur, Clear Hills	Semi-remote	As above	As above
Mt Bulter			
Mt Bulter Alpine Village (trails)	Developed	Mt Bulter Road (cleared), Mirimbah (253 km Mel)	1:50,000 The Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers VMTC, 1:25,000/1:12,500 Mt Stirling Algonia
Corn Hill	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Mt Skene			
Mt Skene	Remote	Licola Road, Licola (324 km Mel); Jamieson Road, Jamieson (280 km Mel)	1:100,000 Mansfield and Mallock Natmap
Baw Baw Plateau			
Baw Baw Village	Developed	Neulynes car-park (chair lift), Tangle Bren Road (cleared), Tangle Bren (160 km Mel)	1:100,000 Marlock Natmap, 1:50,000 Baw Baw National Park and Walhalla Historic Area VMTC, 1:25,000 Baw Baw Plateau Fritz Balkau
Mt Baw Baw	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Mt St Gwiner, Mt St Philack	Semi-developed	St Gwiner car-park, Thomson Valley Road (cleared), Erica (200 km Mel); Baw Baw Village	As above
Mt Whiteaw	Semi-remote	As above	As above
Mt Erica	As above	Mt Erica car-park, Thomson Valley Road, Erica (190 km Mel)	As above
Lake Mountain			
Echo Flat Trail	Developed	Gerrahs car-park, Lake Mountain Road (cleared), Cumberland Road, Marysville (120 km Mel); 1:15,000 Lake Mountain Ski Trails Algonia	As above
Jubilee Trail, Woollybutt Trail	Semi-developed	As above	As above
Mt Bullfight	Remote	As above; Snobs Creek Road, Thornton	1:100,000 Alexandra Natmap, 1:15,000 Lake Mountain Ski Trails Algonia
Mt Tortreck	As above	Conns Gap Road, Snobs Creek Road, Thornton (141 km Mel)	1:100,000 Alexandra Natmap

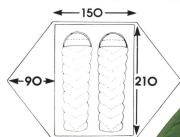
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Winter Tents

Stay warm and dry in the snow, with Dave Jones

Wild Gear Survey

● A SNOW TENT WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST expensive item of backpacking equipment you will buy, so it is worth while making sure you get the right one.

Shape. These days most four-season or winter tents are either domes or tunnels. Traditional 'ridge tents' have an A-shaped cross-section; domes and tunnels have a curved cross-section. Poles intersect in a dome tent; in a tunnel tent they do not. Domes and tunnels are more suited to winter conditions as they are less affected by wind or snow and provide more usable volume for a given floor area. Maximum interior dimensions are measured at the floor's longest and widest points. Some tents taper dramatically.

Vestibules. Snow tents often have vestibules. These handy extensions to the fly provide protection for cooking, storage, dressing and undressing.

Fabric. Most tents are made in two separate parts, one inside the other. This is called 'double-skin' construction. The outer skin is called the fly and is made of proofed nylon or Dacron. The 'proofing' is normally a polyurethane coating inside, and silicon coating outside. Protected by the fly, the inner tent is usually of an uncoated nylon with a light silicon treatment to make it water resistant without affecting its porosity, allowing it to breathe.

Size. Tents for winter use should be roomy. You spend much more time tent-bound owing to the longer nights and colder temperatures. Bad weather can keep you inside all day. It is good if you can have at least one large tent in the party so you can be sociable. Many a congenial evening has been spent huddled in a snow tent playing games and talking. The record in my snow tent is eight people with a guitar, flute and several tin whistles. It was quite an evening! The walls of the inner tent should be as close to vertical as possible to allow maximum use of the floor area. Tents which taper off can be annoyingly inefficient in this respect.

Snow shedding. Australian snow is very wet, heavy and sticky, so snow tents need to be able to withstand a heavy load. Our snow even sticks to vertical surfaces. Whatever tent you buy, you will have to give it a healthy thump from time to time to clear snow during heavy falls. Less snow will accumulate on a tent with steep sides.

Wind resistance. Wind can be a serious problem for winter tents. In the mountains, wind tends to gust and swirl about erratically—a tent needs to be able to withstand a gale from any direction. Unfortunately, shapes that present little wind resistance (those with the least-abrupt profile) tend to hold snow best, so a compromise is called for.

Ease of pitching. Snow tents need to be easy to erect. The usual scene is howling wind, driving snow, sleet, rain or hail (or all of the above), not to mention cold, mittened hands and



On Shivering, Himalayas. Jon Muir

little patience (caused by the above conditions and a desire to escape them as quickly as possible). To make pitching easier look for continuous pole sleeves, equal-length poles with shock-cord to hold them together (label poles of unequal length for easy identification), simple design, and an inner that can be left attached to the fly so you only have to pitch one unit. Large peg loops and easily-grasped zip sliders also help.

Structure. A free-standing tent requires no tent pegs to stand up. This can be a great bonus in the snow, in rain or particularly sunny weather. Sun or rain can melt your pegs out, resulting in tent collapse unless the pole structure is self-supporting. This does not, however, mean that you do not need to use pegs. More than one bushwalker has found out the hard way that a free-standing tent will roll very quickly when pushed along by a stiff breeze. The best wind-blown tent story I have heard involved a traverse of 17 kilometres of the Main Range in the Snowy Mountains—embarrassing and very expensive. You still have to peg the tent down to make sure it stays in place! The weight of packs and gear inside is not enough to hold a tent down.

Ventilation. In Australia we are cursed with very humid winters, so condensation inside tents is inevitable. Condensation can be minimized in a well-ventilated tent. Vents must be both high and low to encourage air movement from floor to roof and out, hopefully taking the moisture with it. If there are no obstructions, enough air can usually enter the space between tent skins from under the bottom of the fly. High vents must be provided by the tent maker. It

must be possible to close vents in really bad weather. A candle lantern will help to reduce condensation significantly; it heats up the top of the tent and evaporates condensed moisture.

Poles. Tent poles should be made from the best material available. The stress applied to them can be huge, so they must be strong. They might be made out of either aluminium or fibreglass: I do not think it makes any difference which of these materials is used as long as they are strong. Segments should be strung together with either shock-cord or nylon cord to reduce fiddling and confusion. Shock-cord is preferable as the poles will assemble themselves for you. For packing convenience, pole segments should be no longer than 50 centimetres. Check the cost and availability of spare segments, just in case. It is a good idea to carry a spare segment.

Pegs. Snow pegs should measure about 20 millimetres x 200 millimetres. A few larger ones, say 30 millimetres x 250 millimetres, can be useful in soft snow. Wire pegs are useless in snow.

Peg loops should be large enough to accommodate large pegs or even skis. A short loop of nylon cord can be attached if the loops are not large enough. The minimum number of pegs required to pitch each tent satisfactorily is given first in the table. The maximum number of pegging points is given second.

Floor. Regardless of whether it is made of light or heavy material, your tent floor will eventually leak. When it does you will also have to carry a groundsheet in addition to the extra weight of a (now useless) heavy tent floor. Look for neoprene-coated nylon and tape-sealed seams.

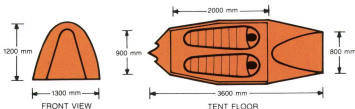
A three millimetre Utility Foam groundsheet is waterproof and reduces floor condensation. Because condensation occurs between foam mats and the floor, inside the tent, they are best positioned between the tent and the snow.

Accessories. Internal pockets are very useful for small items such as matches, glasses and packs of cards. If they are made of netting you can see their contents. Hanging loops are handy for candle lanterns, torches or clothes-lines. The tent stuff-sack should be fairly roomy, so you can put a wet tent into it easily.

Using a snow tent. A lot of care should go into site choice and preparation. Choose a site protected from the worst of the elements, but exposed to sufficient air movement to ventilate your tent and discourage the accumulation of snow. Never pitch a tent under tree branches. They can fall without warning. If it snows, large blobs of snow collect on branches before suddenly dropping off, breaking poles and squashing anything underneath. It is safe to camp between trees, but not under them.

Start with a flatish spot and level it out. A snow shovel is most useful as you can move snow from the high side to the low side. Stamp it hard with either skis or feet. Smooth the area

TRILOGY... a tent for all seasons



SPECIFICATIONS:

Weight: Total	3.3 kg	Floor Area:	2.3 square metres
Inner Tent	1.7 kg	Rolled Size:	520 mm x 210 mm
Fly Sheet	1.0 kg	Maximum Pole Length:	520 mm
Poles/Pegs	.6 kg	Minimum Anchor Points:	Five
Framework:	Three hoops	Colour Options:	Caramel, Silver
	7075 T9 Easton Aluminium	Suggested Retail Price:	\$420.00
	Tubing, Shock corded.		


Your Triology Stockist:

QUEENSLAND BRISBANE, Jim the Backpacker, Scout Outdoor Centre, The Camping Centre.
NEW SOUTH WALES SYDNEY, Caving Equipment, Eastwood Camping Centre, Houdine Camping, Mountain Equipment, Norsk, Paddy Pallin, **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY** CANBERRA, CSE Camping Sports, Houdine Camping, Jurkiewicz Camping Centre, Paddy Pallin, Wild Country.
VICTORIA MELBOURNE, Bush & Mountain Sports, Eastern Mountain Centre, Marechal Camping Supplies, Mt Waverley Ski and Hire, Outposts, Paddy Pallin, Scout Outdoor Centres, The Wilderness Shop, **SOUTH AUSTRALIA** ADELAIDE, Flinders Rangers, The Scout Outdoor Centre, Thor/Paddy Pallin, **WESTERN AUSTRALIA** PERTH, Big Country, **TASMANIA** LAUNCESTON, Allgoods, Paddy Pallin, **HOBART**, The Scout Outdoor Centre, BURNIE, Young's Outdoor Gear.

Triology is the first tent specifically designed for all-year-round Australasian use:

FEATURES:

- **Double skinned** – inner tent pitches first with fly sheet attaching separately. Wide pole sleeves ensure maximum flow-through ventilation.
- **Triple-hoop structure** – increases stability in wind conditions.
- **Tapered design** – creates aerodynamic shape providing unrestricted entrance, maximum head room, and shedding of snowfalls.
- **Front extension of fly sheet** – provides large wet-weather storage and cooking area.
- **Fully insect proofed.**
- **Seamless "no-leak" waterproof tub floor.**
- **Long profile** – for efficient use of space and uncramped sleeping.
- **Lightweight option** – fly sheet can be pitched separately for a lightweight (1.6 kg) three-person shelter.
- **Four-minute pitch.**



Fairlydown
We go to extremes.

with the side of a ski. Prepare an area larger than the tent to make pitching easier.

Assemble the tent away from the area you have prepared and then move it into position. By being very careful not to stand on the tent site you will avoid leaving deep footprints that will be very uncomfortable to sleep on. Packed snow freezes if you leave it for a few hours, so resist the temptation to move in straight away. If you allow the tent site to freeze up you will not have to sleep on a jagged 'egg-carton' surface.

If you have a snow shovel, dig a pit, about 20 or 30 centimetres deep, in front of the door to the inner tent. This hole should be about 50 centimetres square and, when you are getting in and out of the tent, allows you to step down and then rotate as you negotiate the tent door. It also makes it easier to put on and take off your boots and gaiters. You can put your stove into

the hole when cooking, thus making the process a lot safer.

Dig the snow away from the bottom of the tent fly if it comes down to the ground. This will help to keep air moving through the tent and reduce condensation. Building walls round tents is unnecessary unless there is a blizzard. If it is snowing and blowing hard, a wall may help to bury your tent, as snow builds up downwind of an obstruction.

Snow caves. Snow caving is becoming increasingly popular with ski tourists. It must be remembered, however, that a snow shovel cannot replace a tent in your pack. All ski tourists setting out on an overnight tour must carry adequate tentage for all members of the party. You cannot rely on getting to a hut or finding a good site to build a snow shelter. Sleeping in a snow cave is an excellent alternative to a tent if you are staying several

nights in one place or if the weather makes tent pitching very difficult, if not impossible. Making a snow cave habitable takes much longer than erecting a tent (about two hours compared to four minutes). You usually get quite wet during the construction of a snow cave. A major advantage of a snow cave is that it can be made as big as you like, provided you have enough suitable snow and stay within a few engineering limitations. Snow caves are very quiet and unaffected by gales and blizzards. You can build any features you like. Kitchens, living rooms, separate bedrooms, shelving units, and even pool tables are possible. Pay special attention to ventilation. High and low openings will encourage the dispersion of humid air, carbon monoxide (from stoves) and carbon dioxide. ●

Dave Jones (see Contributors in Wild no 6) has worked in specialist outdoor shops for many years. His knowledge (and collection) of outdoor gear is renowned.

Wild Gear Survey Winter Tents

Design	Persons	Maximum interior dimensions (centimetres)	Total weight (kilograms)	Poles	Pegs min/max	Vestibule	Ventilation	Rominess	Ease of pitching	Snow shedding	Wind tolerance	Quality	Approx price
Adventure Sports Korea													
Hiker II	Dome	2	210 x 140	3.6	3 aluminium, unequal length	6/10	2	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●●	\$250
Bergans Norway													
Tunnel	Tunnel	2	210 x 120	3.4	2 fibreglass, equal length	4/14	2	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●●●	●●●●	\$400
Caribee Korea													
Caddis	Tapered tunnel	2	240 x 190	3.5	3 fibreglass, unequal length	8/16	0	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$175
Iso dome	Dome	2-3	250 x 216	4.5	4 fibreglass, equal length	6/8	0	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$240
Companion Korea													
Geodome	Dome	2-3	250 x 190	4.8	4 fibreglass, equal length	8/18	2	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$275
Orion	Tapered tunnel	2	240 x 180	3.4	3 fibreglass, equal length	6/16	2	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$240
Eureka! Korea													
Alpine Meadow	Hybrid	2	220 x 160	3.5	5 alum. 1 fib glass, unequal length	4/6	1 optional	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$385
Timberline	Ridge	2	As above	3.1	5 aluminium, unequal length	8/8	As above	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$315
Wind River	Dome	2	250 x 200	4.0	4 fibreglass, equal length	6/8	0	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$400
Fairlydown New Zealand													
Altitude II	Tapered tunnel	2	210 x 140	3.0	2 aluminium, equal length	5/9	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●● ●●●● ●●	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$455
Trilogy	As above	2	210 x 120	3.3	3 aluminium, unequal length	5/9	1	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$420
Hailmark New Zealand													
Crystals	Tapered tunnel	2	230 x 130	3.2	3 aluminium, unequal length	4/14	1	●● ●● ●●●● ●●	●● ●●●● ●●	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$330
Habitat	Dome	2-3	250 x 200	6.5	4 aluminium, equal length	6/11	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$480
Snow Cave	Tapered tunnel	2	230 x 160	3.8	3 aluminium, unequal length	12/18	2	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$400
Jansport Korea													
Meridian	Dome	2	220 x 140	3.4	3 aluminium, equal length	6/9	2	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$440
Mountain Dome	As above	2	210 x 130	3.0	3 aluminium, equal length	2/6	2	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$385
Yellowstone	As above	2	240 x 195	3.1	4 aluminium, unequal length	6/6	0	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$400
Yosemite	As above	2	As above	3.3	3 aluminium, equal length	6/10	0	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$425
Low United Kingdom													
Alaska	Dome	2	210 x 150	3.4	3 aluminium, unequal length	5/20	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$900
Super Diamond	As above	2-3	250 x 210	5.2	5 aluminium, unequal length	8/12	2	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$585
Macpac Wilderness Equipment New Zealand													
New Horizon	Dome	2-3	250 x 210	4.3	4 aluminium, equal length	6/8	1 optional	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$620
Olympus	Tapered tunnel	2	220 x 120	3.2	3 aluminium, unequal length	4/16	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$485
North Face USA													
VE 24	Dome	2-3	250 x 210	3.9	4 aluminium, equal length	6/8	0	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$640
VE 25	As above	2-3	As above	4.0	5 aluminium, unequal length	8/10	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$895
Westwind	Tapered tunnel	2	245 x 150	2.4	3 aluminium, unequal length	4/8	1	●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$595
Salewa Korea													
Sierra Dome	Dome	2	210 x 150	3.4	3 aluminium, unequal length	6/14	2	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$365
Wild Country United Kingdom													
Voyager	Dome	2	208 x 127	2.6	3 aluminium, unequal length	4/10	1	●● ●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$550
Quasar	As above	2	213 x 127	3.6	4 aluminium, unequal length	4/14	2	●● ●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●●● ●●●● ●●	●●	\$600

THE EVOLUTION OF THE REVOLUTION

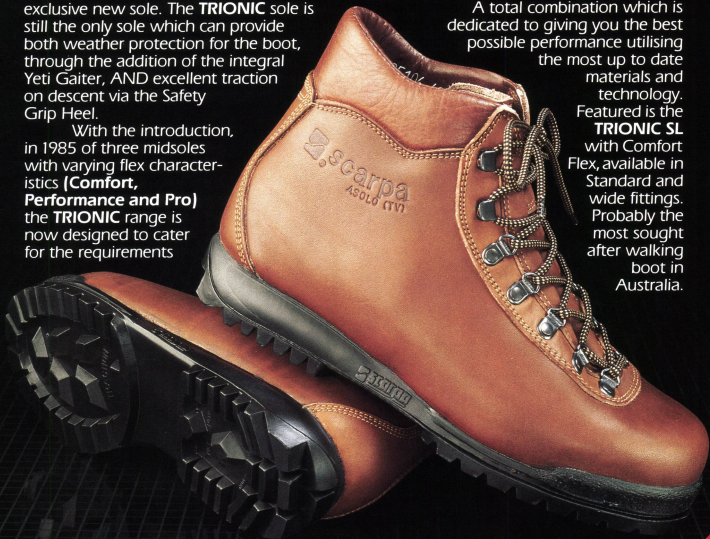
In the beginning was **BIONIC** – then came the revolution – and the birth of **TRIONIC**! This range of footwear from **SCARPA** of Italy incorporated the light weight nylon midsole from the original **BIONIC** construction and added an exclusive new sole. The **TRIONIC** sole is still the only sole which can provide both weather protection for the boot, through the addition of the integral Yeti Gaiter, AND excellent traction on descent via the Safety Grip Heel.

With the introduction, in 1985 of three midsoles with varying flex characteristics (**Comfort**, **Performance and Pro**) the **TRIONIC** range is now designed to cater for the requirements

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Featured is the **TRIONIC SL** with **Comfort Flex**, available in Standard and wide fittings. Probably the most sought after walking boot in Australia.



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Lake Pedder

A tour de force

Reviews



Lake Pedder compiled by Bob Brown (Wilderness Society, 1985, RRP \$120).

This book is as distressing as it is inspiring. It is a definitive and unique record of a beautiful place, as well as an alarming and haunting account of its destruction.

Those who dismiss environmental sensitivity as emotional instability accuse conservationists of being soft-headed, indulgent and pathologically sentimental. Conservationists, finding themselves in a materialistic forum, respond by increasing their efforts to compile rational arguments to contribute to the environmental debate. Let us not be intimidated by the misplaced masculine wisdom and paternalism of the dam builders and investors. Even in economic terms, the scheme which consumed Lake Pedder has been a dreadful mistake.

Our emotional response to landscape, a sense of place, is a universal and cherished experience. It is while at places like Lake Pedder

that we identify most lucidly with Moses' account of our creation; that we were 'formed from the dust of the ground'. Conservation is an unashamedly emotional issue.

Lake Pedder made a perfect gift for my parents, who visited Lake Pedder during their honeymoon, in 1955. It is with tearful regret that I can only visit this place by turning the pages of this superb book and listening to my mother and father reminisce.

The book's concluding image is a small, funereal, black-and-white photograph. Tree-clad dunes languish shortly before being completely inundated 'beneath the tide of insensitivity which still curses human affairs'.

Michael Collie

Paddy Pallin's Bushwalking and Camping by Tim Lamble (Paddy Pallin, 1985, RRP \$11.95).

Bushwalking, like many other recreations, has its personalities. Paddy Pallin is such a

Lake Pedder, Tasmania. Photo by David Neilson, reproduced from Lake Pedder.

personality, his name being on a chain of gear shops across Australia.

Paddy has written the preface to the eleventh edition of his book, but this time has left it to someone with 'the modern touch' to write the book itself. Tim Lamble is already known for his map *Mt Jagungal and the Snowy Mountains*, and his latest venture shines with practical experience. But there are limits to anyone's experience, and this leads to the occasional bias, such as the assertion that 'walled tents are the most practical design for the Australian bush'. In discussion of the boots versus sand-shoes controversy I would have added some more serious criticisms of sand-shoes from my own experience. The omission of the Mt Howitt and Howitt Plains area in Victoria from the suggested ski touring areas is unfortunate.

These quibbles aside, there is a wealth of



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information and advice here. This extends from an analysis of different types of gear, conservation issues, appropriate menus for walks, and navigation techniques. Tim Lamble has supported his text with diagrams, photographs and fine illustrations.

Brian Walters

Wild Herbs of Australia and New Zealand by Tim Low (Angus & Robertson, 1985, RRP \$14.95).

Have you a garden overcome with weeds? Do you hold barbecues on the front lawn out of embarrassment for the back yard? Blush no longer, you have been assiduously, if unconsciously, cultivating a herb garden. Docks and plantains, thistles and lantana are all perfectly edible, even delectable, pot herbs. In fact, nearly all the herbs discussed in this well-written and well-informed book are weeds, mostly introduced from Europe or America, many with a lengthy herbal pedigree that has been lost during migration.

Expecting the mystic quackery one gets from too many herb books, I was pleased to read an author who distinguishes the science of herbalism from its religion, although dealing with both the medical and culinary properties of what is usually compost fodder. It is said, however, that so few native wild herbs are included. The Australian flora is so rich in aromatic oils that there must surely be flavours untapped by ancient herbalists. Sad, too, that only those herbs useful to mankind are mentioned. I am sure many people would gladly use this book to supplement their diet. I certainly shall. My next visitors will be eating pigweed pancakes and nightshade mousse.

Stephen Garnett

Wildlife of Australia by Vincent Serventy (Sun Papermac, 1985, RRP \$17.95).

As a child I used to be absorbed by the magazine *Wildlife in Australia*, edited throughout its early years by Vincent Serventy. This book took me back to those early issues. Every one contained some fascinating account of Australian natural history by the editor, who combined his own observations with the research of the day: good source-material for school projects. Even the photographs, for those days, were pretty good.

Unfortunately the style has aged. The same black-and-white photographs, reproduced up to 20 years later and often slightly out of focus, do not stand up to comparison with those available now. Similarly, research has gone a long way in the intervening years. In some areas Serventy has kept up, but inevitably, given the increasing amount of information available, he is out of date in others. This encyclopaedic account of Australian animals, from mammals to protozoa, is still good source material; few have as broad a knowledge as Serventy, but probably this book should have been published ten years ago.

SG

Bush Journeys by Bill Molyneux (Nelson, 1985, RRP \$16.95).

Most places in Australia have been visited by Bill Molyneux. This is a collection of 30 of his travellers' tales, the Australian bush through the eyes of a plantsman. Some are delightful. His enjoyment of the bush and perceptive

appreciation of individual plants gives a new perspective to familiar places, and makes new places enticing. However, too often one is being told about Molyneux's obvious but self-conscious skills as a bushman, or about the failings of others who exploit the bush, for his appreciation to be evident. Only when he becomes incidental to the landscape he describes can other people travel with him.

The front cover of the book exemplifies its contents. A lovely flock of flowering grass trees is marred by an inset of the author and his Land Rover. The photographs inside are particularly high quality, but the drawings suffer the fate of the cover. Appealing sketches of plants and landscapes are often spoilt by stiff, almost naive, self-portraits. It is rather like finding someone at a favourite private campsite; however pleasant they may be, you wish they were somewhere else. But he does have an interesting perspective. Bush is much less anonymous when explored with an eye to individual plants.

SG

The Boy and the Whale text by Katherine Scholes, illustrations by David Wong (Viking Kestrel, 1985, RRP \$9.95).

Anyone, child or adult, who empathises with animals in distress will delight in the author's sentiments expressed through the reactions of a young boy, Sam, when he finds a pygmy sperm whale stranded on a lonely beach. Not unlike the highly acclaimed *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele, this compelling story, written for children between seven and twelve years of age, has a

strong message against cruelty to animals which would reach the hearts of even the most callous.

Katherine Scholes's beautiful imagery is enhanced by artist David Wong's inspiring black-and-white drawings which are aesthetically and regularly placed throughout the 47-page text. The author's note at the beginning not only provides useful background information, but also adds credence to the story.

This is certainly a book which deserves a place in every animal lover's heart and bookshelf.

Sue Baxter

Animals in the Wild series by Vincent Serventy and Mary Hoffman (Ferguson, and Windward/Belitha, 1983-85, RRP \$3.50 each).

The series comprises 18 soft-bound titles. Written for young readers, they show each animal in its natural habitat and describe its struggle for survival. The titles by Vincent Serventy include more Australian animals than the others.

The strength of the series lies in the outstanding colour photography which almost fills each page but leaves room for only a small amount of text. The text is, however, often inconsiderate to the young reader. It is usually too brief and jumps from one idea to another in an obvious effort to work in with the photographs. This lack of continuity often leads to ambiguities and makes it difficult for young readers to process the information. Mary Hoffman's titles *Panda* and *Tiger* are more considerably written in this respect.



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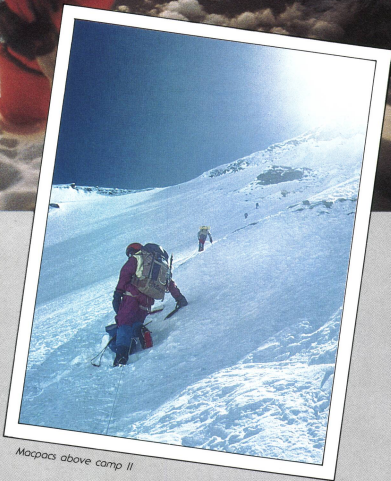
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Greg Mortimer on the summit of Everest

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Greg Mortimer



Macpacs above camp II



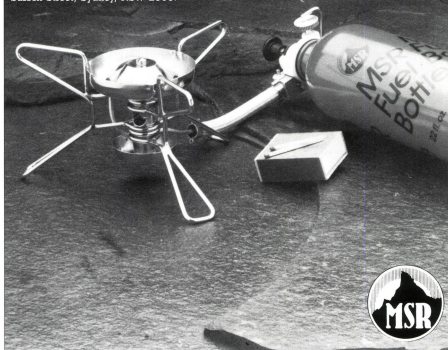
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Reviews

At best, the series may help to make children aware of the desperate need to conserve the wild animals of the world, but even this need is somewhat understated.

SB

Lightweight Expeditions to the Great Ranges edited by Charles Clarke and Audrey Saikeld (Alpine Club, 1984, 5.50 pounds, plus postage, from 74 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5FF, UK).

Sub-titled 'Proceedings of a symposium for mountaineers and expedition organizers sponsored by the Alpine Club', this little book comprises papers delivered by 11 well-known British mountaineers at a public 'think tank' arranged in the wake of the spate of recent British deaths in the Himalayas.

Certainly, *Lightweight Expeditions* contains some advice for those planning lightweight mountaineering expeditions, but its value is seriously diminished by its brevity and superficiality. And, in many places, the little there is would have benefited from vigorous use of the editorial pruning saw to rid it of excessive waffle.

Chris Baxter

Without Thought for Food or Clothing by A Christian (Christians, 1985, RRP \$2.95).

This small book is the diary of a walk by a group of young Christians from Port Augusta in South Australia to Norseman in Western Australia that received some publicity last May and June. Several people predicted tragedy for this walk across the Nullarbor Plain by people without food, water or money. However, the 1,650 kilometre walk was completed safely.

People go walking for many different reasons, and it is interesting to reflect that 'wilderness' meant something very different to these people to its current popular connotation. A walk of this magnitude is a major undertaking, and it is remarkable that it was completed in only 55 days by these six people, aged from 12 to 22.

There is no doubt that they received help from many unexpected quarters, but I hope their success does not lead to too much of the self-righteousness that is evident in the book, although happily absent from most of the diary entries.

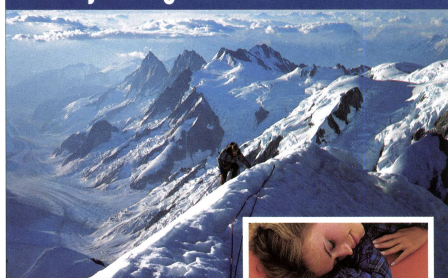
BW

The Walker 1986 (Melbourne Walking Club, RRP \$3.00).

It was with a sense of disappointment that I read *The Walker* this year. Several articles celebrate the 150th anniversary of Major Mitchell's expedition of 1836. There are track notes covering areas explored by Major Mitchell which look good. However, there is a good deal of padding concerning Major Mitchell's journey, much of it more relevant to someone keen to go driving for the week-end rather than walking. I hope *The Walker* is not showing its age!

What amazes me is that in a magazine published by a walking club there is a feature article, 'How the Greenies Are Getting It All Wrong'. This article fails to display an awareness of the issues of conservation in Australia today and stereotypes the attitudes of conservationists. The sweeping generalizations, unsupported by any evidence, are breathtaking. For example, the author argues that 'your average greenie' complains more about wood-

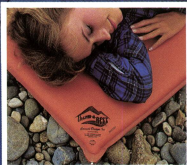
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Reviews

chipping than cattle-grazing, whereas cattle-grazing does more damage than woodchipping. This sort of pointless nonsense is not worthy of *The Walker*.

Perhaps next year's issue will be more in tune with the walking public.

BW

Watersheds of the King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers by Stuart Brooks (Victorian Mountain Tramping Club, 1985 edition, RRP \$5.00).

This classic walkers' map (first produced in 1948 at a scale of an inch to a mile, 1:63,360) has been redrawn at a scale of 1:50,000 with 100 metre contours. Because of the increased scale and coverage, this map is now printed, with a small overlap, on both sides of a single sheet.

All water courses appear in blue, reserve and National Park boundaries in red, and all other detail and type in black.

Sadly, this revised edition includes new roads, numerous recent logging sites and a proposed ski village site. It is a unique source of reliable and intimately detailed information about one of Victoria's best bushwalking areas.

MC

Bogong (Victoria Conservation Trust, 1985, RRP \$6.95).

The fourth and last sheet in the series *Bogong High Plains Vegetation Map and Guide to Alpine Flora*, *Bogong* maintains the high standards of design and production established by the series. *Bogong* covers the area between Michell Hut, on Mt Bogong, and Spion Kopje (northern and southern extremities), and Mt Arthur and Battys Hut (western and eastern edges). The scale is 1:15,000 and the contour interval ten metres. Alpine vegetation communities are mapped in detail according to a nine-part colour scheme. Other features of particular interest to walkers, such as huts and tracks, are shown.

The map (measuring about 58 x 84 centimetres) is backed by a collection of Colin Totterdell's superb photos of alpine flora. It is printed on water-resistant plastic paper and is sold in a clip-seal plastic bag. It can therefore be used in the field to add a new dimension to the walking experience. This map-poster is worth every cent of the price.

A reprint of the *Rocky Valley* sheet in this series is now available. It has been amended to include Spion Kopje, and thus ties in with the *Bogong* sheet; the ten metre contour interval has been adopted (it was originally twenty metres). Printed on water-resistant paper, it is priced at \$6.95.

Sandra Bardwell

Lake Pedder poster by Wilf Elvey (Wilderness Society, 1985, RRP \$7.50).

This photograph of Lake Pedder by Wilf Elvey is a highlight of the book, *Lake Pedder*, in which it is presented as a fold-out spread. Framed by a carefully chosen, complementary mauve border, it is even more impressive as a poster.

Measuring 50 x 100 centimetres, this poster is available from Wilderness Society shops.

MC

Publications for possible review are welcome. Send them to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

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Curry in a Hurry

A culinary can-can

● **Curry in a Hurry.** Hotcan self-heating meals are not the catering solution for your next two-week walk. But for short trips in inhospitable weather, or when weight is not a serious consideration, the convenience of Hotcan meals may be appealing. Each Hotcan weighs about a kilogram. The meal accounts for half this weight and is surrounded by a cavity. Puncturing a water capsule inside this jacket, with a tool provided, starts a chemical reaction which heats the meal in about ten minutes. No stove is required.

Curried vegetables with fruit compared very favourably with other packaged meals we have eaten, scoring a 'thumbs up' during a Wild staff lunch break. Some, however, found it too sweet. Other meals are available, including chicken or beef casserole with vegetables and gravy, and Irish stew.

A used Hotcan must, of course, be carried to an appropriate place of disposal, yet cannot be easily compacted.

Hotcan self-heating meals are available from Scout shops and cost about \$6.00 each.

● **Gyrating Hips.** On most packs that adjust to fit different back or torso lengths, the distance between the shoulder straps and hip-belt is varied by raising or lowering the shoulder harness. The new *Berghaus Laser rucksacks* have fixed shoulder straps and a moveable hip-belt. The Laser shoulder harness is permanently sewn to the rucksack. Regardless of the back length, the shoulder and top tension-straps remain in an optimum position. The hip-belt slides up and down parallel aluminium staves which can be bent to conform to the shape of your back. Clamps behind the hip-belt secure its position.

The Laser range includes packs with 55 to 80 litre capacities, external pockets and double compartments with zip access to the bottom one. Prices range from \$200 to \$289.

Laser L (luxury back) models are made from 12 ounce Cordura and have a triple-density foam-padded hip-belt and the familiar Berghaus dimple ('occipital cavity') for uninhibited head movement.

● **Cross Country Comfort.** Good skis are a waste of money without good boots. That first pair of good quality boots is usually a revelation and turning point for most skiers. In your quest for 'co-operative', if not perfect, cross country skiing boots, make sure you examine the elusive Merrell range, imported by Nordic Traders.

The XCD Lace has a one-piece, full-grain leather upper with tongue gusset, double-stitched to contoured polyurethane and rubber mid-soles, and Vibram XCD soles. Similar to the Asolo Snowfield, this boot promises durability and torsional rigidity with a touring flex. The Merrell XCD Lace costs about \$160 a pair. The XCD Velcro has four independently adjustable



Berghaus Laser 80 BC rucksack and the Laser adjustable harness.

Velcro straps instead of laces, and costs just under \$200 a pair.

The *Touring Leather* model (about \$125) has a solid high-cut leather upper and a nylon insole that is specifically moulded for each boot size. The graduated thickness of the nylon insole and the design of the Skywalk sole lugs encourage the boot to flex at the ball of the foot while contributing to the boot's torsional rigidity. Sharing the moulded nylon insoles, the *Country Touring* has a lighter, high-cut leather upper and costs just under \$100 a pair.

The *Rainier*, a high-cut touring boot with Thinsulate insulation and a dual-density foam foot-bed, costs about \$75 a pair. The *Westwind*, a low-cut recreation boot, costs about \$45 a pair.

Two Merrell models will be available with SNS (Salomon Nordic System) touring soles. The *SNS Classic* has a leather upper, high foam collar and costs less than \$70 a pair. The *SNS Gore-Tex* has a high-cut suede and nylon upper, waterproof Gore-Tex sock, insulating lining and costs about \$110 a pair.

Equipment

● **Karrimor Kindness.** Because your waterproof, vapour-permeable jacket probably cost more than your rucksack, rucksack manufacturers are beginning to consider the abrasive nature of buckles and hard textiles used to make rucksacks.

From late last year Karrimor began to relocate harness buckles so that they do not contact garments. Other manufacturers have also done this to improve comfort. Karrimor Panther, Jaguar and Condor packs will also have soft polyester/cotton-lined back pads, hip-belts and shoulder harnesses.

● **Lightweight Illumination.** The oil-burning *UltraLight lantern* has an appealing simplicity and weighs only 227 grams. Three stainless steel legs spring out to form a stable tripod when the Pyrex chimney is raised to shelter the adjustable flame. The UltraLight is locked in its compacted state (64 x 102 millimetres) by a screw cap which also seals the wick when not in use. The lamp is claimed to be leak-proof, and to burn for about 20 hours before requiring refilling. The UltraLight is available from Mountain Designs shops for about \$54.

Similar to the UltraLight lamp, the oil-burning *Candle Oil lamp insert* is also available to replace the candle in your candle lantern.

● **Can't Stand It?** Camera tripods are useful for improving sharpness by reducing camera shake, and enable the photographer with a self-timer-equipped camera to appear in his own photograph. While many walkers and climbers



Camp Photomatic Ski, left, Outdoor and Mountain camera mounts.

feel naked without a camera, few are prepared to carry a good tripod. Increasing numbers of aids to improvisation are available.

Very small tripods from Ricoh and Camp are among the more straightforward alternatives. The *Ricoh Mini Tripod* (\$34) folds into a slim 135 millimetre long package. A camera attaches to its tilting head with a thumb screw. The *Camp Outdoor Photomatic mini tripod* (\$40) has an articulated ball-and-socket head which screws directly into the camera base, and a Velcro-fastened strap for gripping tree branches and poles.

One end of the *Camp Ski Photomatic* sketch (\$13) screws into the camera base while the



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Equipment

other grips a ski stock tip. Attached to the camera base with a thumb screw, the *Camp Mountain Photomatic clamp* (\$15) is designed to grip an ice axe pick.

● **Pretty Pictures.** The new *Fuji HDM* (Heavy-Duty Motor drive) 35 millimetre camera will be of interest to walkers, skiers and canoeists. The HDM has an automatic light meter, power wind-on and rewind, built-in flash, self timer and manually focused 38 mm integral lens. This all-weather camera is waterproof to a depth of two metres.

The HDM is characterized by a rugged appearance and a 55 mm diameter window protecting the lens, viewfinder and light meter. With two penlight batteries it weighs 515 grams. Compact dimensions (140 mm long x 72 mm high x 62 mm deep) make it pocket size. The *Fuji HDM* costs about \$299.

A survey of lightweight cameras was published in *Wild* no 11.

● **Hi-fibre.** Ironically, Du Pont's 'high tech' Dacron Quallofil insulating fibre makes its Australian debut, as a sleeping bag fill, in the *K-Mart Jackaroo sleeping bags* which are made in Melbourne.

With four central tunnels, each Quallofil fibre has a larger surface area and greater resilience



Jackaroo West Ridge, left, and East Face sleeping bags.

than simple tubular insulating fibres such as Du Pont's Dacron Holiolite.

The rectangular *Jackaroo West Ridge* has a two-way full-length zip and a draught collar, and costs about \$140. The mummy style *Jackaroo East Face* costs about \$160.

● **Latest Whisper.** The American *MSR WhisperLite* and classic *X-GK* stoves should be more readily available following the appointment of an Australian distributor, DB Biggs (importers of Helly Hansen clothing and an array of Norwegian ski equipment).

Post-Oz-dollar-plunge prices are about \$90 for the *WhisperLite* and \$170 for the *X-GK*.

● **Survival Bag Recall.** The Australian distributor has requested that *Ascon-Kemi Survival Bags* be returned to the shop where they were purchased. A packaging fault has resulted in some deterioration of the survival bags.

New products (on loan to Wild), and/or information about them, including colour slides, are welcomed for possible review in this department. Written items should be typed, include recommended retail prices, and preferably not exceed 200 words. Send items to the Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.



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Contributors

Tony Dicker describes himself as an addicted seeker of new and challenging experiences, and an impassioned observer and protector of all things natural.

Although much of his life is now spent behind a camera and typewriter, Tony is still heavily involved with his earlier loves, music and the



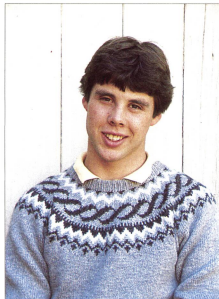
Tony Dicker

sea. He writes that the former has been a "golden thread" linking all 38 years of his life.

Tony undertook a history-making solo canoe journey round Tasmania and its Bass Strait islands from 1 November 1981 to 1 February 1982. As a result of that trip Tony is now a professional photographer and photo-journalist. He has recently been investigating the last positive sighting of a female Tasmanian tiger.

David Gorrie started bushwalking at an early age, when introduced to walking by his family. He spent numerous school holidays exploring Victoria's Grampians State Forest (as it was then), teaching himself the craft of bushwalking. Upon completion of his schooling, David spent three years working on a farm, then took up his current job as a journalist for a country newspaper. He has walked extensively in Victoria, and completed several walks in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, and Tasmania. David has been writing for outdoor and photographic magazines for two years, and hopes to further his career in photo-journalism while travelling extensively both in Australia and overseas.

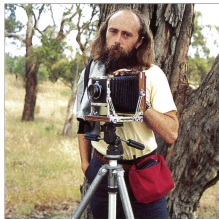
David Tatnall has been photographing landscape with large format cameras since 1974. He has been inspired by the work of



David Gorrie

photographers Edward Weston, Paul Caponigro and Minor White.

David uses a hand-crafted cherry-wood 4 x 5 inch field camera. He prefers to work in black-and-white, producing fine prints. Consequently he takes only a small number of colour



David Tatnall

photographs. His photographs are hung in the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria and the Australian Heritage Commission Archives.

He has walked extensively in Victoria, Tasmania and southern New South Wales, carrying up to 11 kilograms of camera equipment. At present he is working on a major folio of the Bogong High Plains.

These notes describe writers and photographers whose first contribution to Wild appears in this issue. Brief notes at the conclusion of articles and features by contributors whose work has been previously published in Wild include reference to the issue in which it first appeared.

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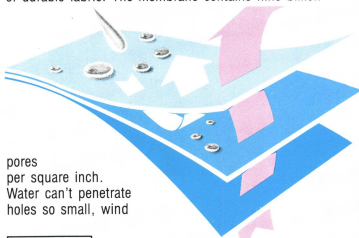
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Greg Mortimer wearing a Gore-Tex® down suit on the summit of Mt Everest. Photo Tim Macartney-Shane

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Macpac Phoenix

New light on Main Range epic

We read with interest John Gertsakis's article 'Entombed on the Main Range' in *Wild* no 18. During a skiing trip late in October 1984, while heading up towards Little Tynnam, we noticed some unusual objects on the snow. On closer inspection these objects turned out to be three flattened tents, obviously those abandoned by John and his party. The following information helps to complete the story told in the article.

The tents were lying on platforms raised slightly above the surrounding snow level. Unfortunately we must disappoint both John and Macpac as none of the Olympus tunnel tents was standing. The tents had numerous broken poles and, as a result of the melting snow, the pegs were useless. Foxes had been into the tents after the food; thus the abandoned equipment was scattered over a wide area.

As there was a strong possibility that the tents would blow away in the wind and sustain further damage, we repitched one of the Olympus tents. The tent was moved five metres to a position where it was clearly visible from all directions, especially from the air. All other loose gear, with the exception of food which was left separately in a garbage bag and buried under rocks, was put into this tent. We are sorry if Nola's jumper got put in the garbage bag as well. We then reported the find, its location, and the only name we could extract from the equipment, to a National Parks officer.

John's article more or less confirmed our assessment of the probable course of events. We can appreciate the situation the blizzard presented as we were camped on the Rams Head in the same blizzard, but with less serious consequences. Whilst leaving the area was the right decision, the episode should be taken as a warning against camping in exposed positions.

David Martin and Julia James
Newtown, NSW

Classic Mess

Considerable rubbish, mostly orange marking-tape, has been left in the bush near Ormeo after the Wildtrek Classic, for the third year in succession, despite written requests from me each year that the organizers collect it. This state of affairs has not been a good advertisement in our district for the 'bush fraternity from the city'. We have nothing against the event but feel that the organizers should ensure that its mess is cleared up.

Ian Stapleton
Mitagundi
Ormeo, Vic

Lake of Shame

In the *Wildfire* section of previous issues of *Wild* I read with interest the discussion between walkers and four-wheel-drivers over responsibility for the pollution of the bush. At that time I would have sided wholeheartedly with the walkers, having seen the amounts of rubbish apparently left behind by thoughtless four-wheel-drivers.

Wildfire

Unfortunately I have had to modify my prejudices. Last November, on a walk to Lake Tali Karng, Victoria, I was absolutely disgusted by the amount of rubbish surrounding the lake. Large numbers of discarded Gaz cylinders, green garbage bags and empty bottles littered the shores and were even floating in the creek. Someone had tipped over the toilet and had apparently used it as a shelter, because there were pieces of foam mattress under the up-ended walls. There was even an abandoned sleeping bag hanging from a tree. As vehicles cannot reach the lake, obviously walkers were responsible for the mess . . .

What is the point of trying to save wilderness areas from developers, miners and loggers when we who profess to love the wilds desecrate them in such a way?

Allan Miller
Mt Eliza, Vic

Krashing In

Thank you for mentioning the release of our Cascade TS polyethylene kayak in *Wild* no 18. There are two points that need clarifying. First, the Cascade TS was described as 'indestructible'. (Actually, we wrote 'claimed to be . . . indestructible'. Editor) However, this is a strictly relative term—it can be destroyed, but it will usually outlast at least five fibreglass kayaks of equal weight . . . Second, the price of \$390 was for an initial price of promotion only. The normal retail price is \$495 plus freight.

Kevin Rooke
Adventure Recreation Lines
Melbourne, Vic

Of Course!

My attention has been drawn to a statement in *Wild* no 18 concerning outdoor education courses offered at Bendigo College of Advanced Education. Without going into detail, for it is quite a complex issue, I would like to clarify the situation.

Both courses, the Bachelor of Arts (Outdoor Education) and the Associate Diploma in Adventure Leadership, are alive and well considering the circumstances. There have been some concerns about the discrepancy between the funding attracted from the government per student per year, and the cost per student per year . . .

Despite the difficulties, staff and administration at BCAE have carefully considered a possible reduction in the intake to at least one of the two courses, despite the fact that there were over 500 applications for the 40, or possibly fewer, positions available . . .

Phillip Payne
Head of Academic Area, Outdoor Education
Bendigo College of Advanced Education
Bendigo, Vic

Readers' letters are welcome. A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Write to the Editor, *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Victoria 3181.

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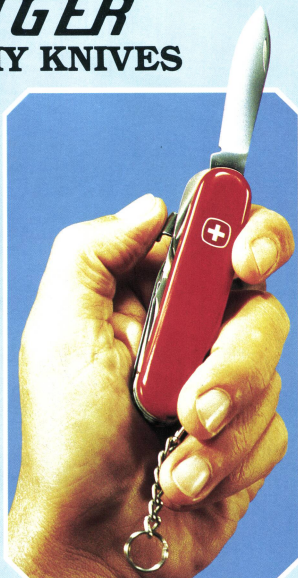
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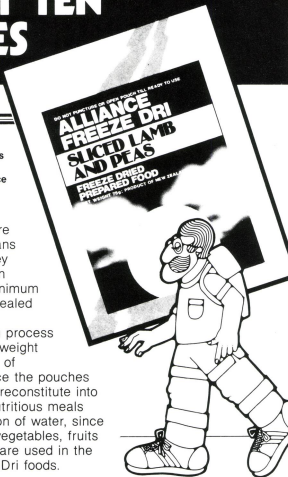
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